

Green County 4~H

Horse & Pony and Horseless Horse Project Manual



UW-MADISON EXTENSION
GREEN COUNTY

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.

4~H Horse Policy

The health and safety of all of our participants is extremely important. Therefore, our 4-H policies and safety requirements apply to ALL youth and adults participating in 4-H Horse-related projects, activities and events, including, but not limited to Horseless Horse, clinics, shows, fairs, parades, open houses, and petting zoos.

General Safety Rules

- Youth must be in 3rd grade or higher to participate.
- The handler, rider or driver must have control over their horse during 4-H sponsored activities or events.
- No intact male horses (stallions) are allowed.
- No Bareback or riding double.
- No Reining or Team Penning classes/activities
- No horse may be left unattended when out of the stall or trailer.
- Leave at least one horse/pony length between animals.
- When holding a horse in hand, make turns to the right when more than ninety degrees.
- No Trick Riding: trick riding includes any activity involving stunts, acrobatics, or non-standard riding maneuvers that deviate from traditional, safe horseback riding practices. Examples include, but are not limited to: standing on a horse, standing on a horse while it is in motion, vaulting onto or off of a horse, hanging from the side or underside of a moving horse, and riders performing flips or jumps off of the horse.

Required Participant Safety Attire

- SEI approved helmets, with harness fastened, must be worn at all times when mounted or driving.
- Close-toed shoes or boots are required when near a horse.
- Boots with a cut out heel must be worn when mounted.
- Clothing appropriate for the activity which will protect the participant from the elements surrounding the event.

Required Safety Tack and Appointments

Horse tack and appointments appropriate to the activity are required:

- A saddle is required when mounted. Saddle which fits horse and rider with stirrups, girth or cinch properly attached.
- Appropriate headgear with reins attached are required when riding or driving a horse. Halters and tie-downs alone are not approved headgear for riding or driving a horse. See WI 4-H Horse Association rules for additional headgear guidelines.
- Twisted wire snaffle bits are prohibited.
- Adjustments to tack for a valid medical reason are permitted with written permission from a veterinarian or physician, provided lead volunteers or staff are notified, and approved, prior to participation.

Animal Welfare and Safety

- Horses or Ponies must be serviceably sound and must not show evidence of broken wind (respiratory issues – COPD) or impairment of vision in both eyes.
- Coggins/Premise ID records for the open event must be maintained by the host organization for five years in compliance with Wisconsin law.
 - Equine animals from within Wisconsin need documentation of a negative EIA test done within the previous 12 months, which clearly identifies the animal by complete description, digital photographs, or an approved microchip (if a reader is available).
 - Wisconsin Premise ID should be written on the top of the coggins record for each horse.
 - Health certificates for out of state horses should be maintained with show records. Please visit DATCP website for more details: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/HorseOtherEquineMvmt.aspx

(cont. on next page)

4~H Horse Policy

4-H Horse Project Concussion and Head Injury Policy

- Wisconsin 4-H will annually distribute the 4-H Horse Project concussion and head injury information via 4-H Online to:
 - every 4-H volunteer who is enrolled in the 4-H Horse Project and
 - every 4-H member/parent that participates in the 4-H Horse Project and
 - every youth/parent that participates in the 4-H Horse Program
- No youth may participate in the 4-H Horse Project unless the youth and parent agrees to and signs the 4-H Horse Project Concussion Agreement. Forms will be signed annually at the start of each program year or upon entry of a youth into the 4-H Horse Project via the online enrollment system or paper registration.
- All 4-H Horse project volunteers will annually agree to and sign the 4-H Horse Project Concussion Policy Acknowledgement Form via the online enrollment system or paper registration before they are approved to hold 4-H Horse Project riding or driving programs/activities.
- The supervising 4-H volunteer will immediately remove a participant from the 4-H Horse Project riding or driving project/activity if the 4-H volunteer determines that:
 - the 4-H member/participant exhibits signs, symptoms, or behavior consistent with a concussion or head injury **–OR–**
 - the 4-H member/participant was separated from their horse and hit their head or their head was struck.
- A youth who has been removed from the 4-H Horse Program riding or driving program/activity related to a suspected and/or confirmed concussion or head injury **–OR–** the 4-H member/participant was separated from their horse and hit their head or their head was struck **may not participate in any 4-H Horse riding or driving activities until he or she is evaluated by a health care provider and receives a written clearance to participate in the project/activity from the health care provider.**

Records shall be kept in the local Extension Office of all participants removed from a 4-H Horse project/activity for suspected and/or confirmed concussions and corresponding written clearances provided by health care providers to return to the 4-H Horse project/activity.

Project Deadlines

April 1—Registration deadline for [State Speaking, Demonstration, Model Horse, Hippology, Horse Bowl Contests, Art, Communication & Photography Contest](#)

April 1—**Pay Project Fees:** Youth who intend to bring a horse to any 4-H clinics, 4-H ride events, 4-H Pre-Fair Show, or 4-H Games Day, wish to be eligible for the 4-H Participation Incentive Program, or have sponsor or tack stall fees for State 4-H Shows paid by the 4-H Horse Committee, will need to **pay Project Fees** of \$30 per individual or no more than \$50 per family. Fees help to cover costs of clinicians, judges, awards and more. We accept cash or checks made payable to “*Green County 4-H Adult Leaders.*”

April 20—**Submit Coggins with Premise ID:** Youth who intend to bring a horse to any Green County 4-H Horse event MUST submit to the Extension Office a paper copy of **current Coggins** for each horse, with the Premise ID where the horse is stabled written on top of each form. Electronic Coggins forms must be in color and the photo clear. Carbon copies are allowed with correct markings and colors noted.

May 15—Registration deadline for [State 4-H Hunter & Dressage Show & Clinics](#)

May 21—Registration Deadline for the [Green County Fair](#)

August 1—Registration Deadline for [State 4-H Horse Expo](#) (Riding, Judging, Posters, Art, Photography etc.)

August 1—Registration deadline for [State 4-H Gymkhana](#)

Educational Events without a Horse

Members are encouraged to check out the numerous opportunities available to 4-H Horse Project and 4-H Horseless Horse Project members to explore and express your interest in horses, including...

- WI State 4-H Horse Association (<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/large-animals/horse-project/wisconsin-4-h-horse-association/>)
 - Education Days: Speaking, Demonstration, Hippology & Horse Bowl—May 2-3 at UW-Green Bay
 - State 4-H Horse Expo Educational Contests: Art, Creative Communication, Judging, Model Horse, Photography, Team Problems—September 18-20 at Wisconsin State Fair Park
 - WI 4-H Horse Leadership Conference—November 14 at UW-River Falls
- Green County Fair (<https://greencountyfair.net/>)
 - Horse Educational Exhibits (Creative writing, Scrapbooking, Educational poster, Drawing & Painting, Photography, Woodworking) - See Dept. 10, Class F
 - Equestrian Attire (Sew articles for the rider, horse, etc.) - See Dept. 26, Classes K-N

Educational Events with a Horse

Project fees are required if 4-H members are going to participate with a horse in Green County 4-H Clinics or Shows, wish to be eligible for the 4-H Participation Incentive Program, or have sponsor or tack stall fees for State 4-H Horse Shows paid for by the 4-H Horse Committee. The project fees help to pay clinician and judge fees, purchase necessary equipment and awards, and help with arena maintenance at the fairgrounds. NOTE: We rely on project members like you to volunteer with arena set-up and tear down.

Educational opportunities available with a horse include....

- FREE riding clinics with experienced clinicians. Registration 4 days in advanced is required to participate in clinics. See the links on the Calendar page to sign up for the clinics you'd like to attend.
- Green County 4-H Horse Shows offer youth fun, supportive opportunities to compete in a variety of horse riding forms. Some of these shows are fundraiser for the project, with class fees, and others are FREE.
- WI State 4-H Horse Association (<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/large-animals/horse-project/wisconsin-4-h-horse-association/>)
 - WI 4-H Hunt & Dressage Show & Clinics—June 26-28 at Sheboygan County Fairgrounds, Plymouth
 - WI 4-H Gymkhana—September 12 at State Fair Park, West Allis
 - WI 4-H Horse Expo—September 18-20 at State Fair Park, West Allis
- Green County Fair (<https://greencountyfair.net/>) - Trail, Showmanship, Halter, Driving, English, & Western

4~H Participation Incentive Program

The Green County 4-H Horse & Pony Committee is taking a NEW approach in 2026 to encourage participation in the wide variety of Green County 4-H Horse Project related learning opportunities and rewarding a commitment to learning and involvement inside and outside the arena.

Each time a 4-H Horse Project member participates in a Green County 4-H Horse meeting, clinic or contests, their name will automatically get placed into an end of season drawing. The more a youth participates, the better their chances! At the Green County 4-H Horse Games Day, three (3) names will be drawn, one (1) from each age division: **Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-13.**

To be eligible:

- Participants must be an enrolled 4-H Green County member by January 15, 2026 and have paid their 4-H Horse Project fees by April 1, 2026.
- For attendance to count toward participation, a youth must sign-in and then stay past the business/learning/competition part of the meeting/clinic/event.
- Only the following Green County 4-H sanctioned events listed are eligible:
 - 4-H Horse Committee meetings (in-person or via Zoom – Feb thru July)
 - 4-H Horse Kick Off event
 - 4-H Horse Clinics
 - 4-H Horse Fun Show
 - 4-H Horse Pre-Fair Show
 - Green County Fair Horse Show
 - 4-H Horse Games Day Show

Winners will be announced and recognized at the Green County 4-H Games Day.

Youth do not have to be present at Games Day to win.

Horse Committee Contacts

President:

Carla Melvin

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608-558-0997

Secretary:

Heather Watson

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608-558-5122

Financial Secretary:

Jackie Shares

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608-515-3902

4~H Project Calendar



When you see the horse icon, you are welcome to bring your horse to this event.
If you do not see the horse icon, please leave your horse at home.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event/Clinic</u>	<u>Location</u>
February 7, 2026	11:30am Register by February 5 at: https://go.wisc.edu/v14gqy	Horse Project Kick Off Event	Green County Justice Center 2841 6th St. Monroe, WI
April 21, 2026	5:00pm	Arena Set-Up	Green County Fairgrounds 2600 10th St. Monroe WI
 April 25, 2026	9:00am-11:00am	Trail Clinic	Green County Fairgrounds
April 25, 2026 Celina Snider & Sue Trotter	12:00pm-2:00pm Register by April 21 at: https://go.wisc.edu/miurpf Rain date: May 31, 2026	Gymkhana Clinic	2600 10th St. Monroe, WI
 May 16, 2026	9:00am-11:00am	Showmanship Clinic	Green County Fairgrounds
May 16, 2026 Katie Huffman & Leah Sampson	12:00pm-2:00pm Register by May 12 at: https://go.wisc.edu/pa94f3	Western Pleasure Clinic	2600 10th St. Monroe, WI
 May 17, 2026	8:30am-10:30am	English Pleasure Clinic	Country View Equest. Center
May 17, 2026 Crimson Pulver	11:00am-1:00pm Register by May 13 at: https://go.wisc.edu/qj837j	English Equitation Clinic	N2192 Clarno Rd. Monroe, WI
 May 23, 2026	10:00am-12:00pm	Horsemanship Clinic	Green County Fairgrounds
Carla Melvin	Register by May 19 at: https://go.wisc.edu/im53gm		2600 10th St. Monroe WI
 June 13, 2026	9:00am-3:00pm	Fun Show	Green County Fairgrounds
Judge: Candy Benner	Register by June 9 at: https://go.wisc.edu/9s83m9		2600 10th St. Monroe, WI
 June 14, 2026	7:00am Check-In	Make-Up 2025 Games Day	Green County Fairgrounds
	Register by June 9 at: https://go.wisc.edu/748c33		2600 10th St. Monroe, WI
 June 27, 2026	9:00am Start Time	Pre-Fair Show/Clinic	Green County Fairgrounds
	Register by June 23 at: https://go.wisc.edu/0bdwa6		2600 10th St. Monroe, WI
 July 11, 2026	8:30am Start Time	Green County Fair Horse Show	Green County Fairgrounds
	Register by May 21 via FairEntry online entry system. See link on Green County Fair website: https://greencountyfair.net/junior-class/ (Dept. 6)		2600 10th St. Monroe, WI
 July 12, 2026	7:00am Check-In	2026 Games Day	Green County Fairgrounds
	Register by July 7 at: https://go.wisc.edu/528rgy		2600 10th St. Monroe, WI

To stay up to date with important updates and reminders about the Horse Project, follow the Green County 4-H Horse Project Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenCntyWI4HHorse>