



# 2026 FULTON COUNTY HORSE & PONY CLUB

overview guide



Property of the \_\_\_\_\_ Family

## **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, and  
My HEALTH to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

## **4-H CLOVER**

The 4-H Clover is always green, with a white "H" in the middle of each leaf.  
These represent: Head, Heart, Hands and Health

## **AMERICAN PLEDGE**

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,  
and to the republic, for which it stands,  
one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## **SPONSORING OUR CLUB**

Volunteers are always needed within our club. You don't need any horse experience to help. Adults are always needed during the 4-H Fair to help set up classes, hand out awards, etc. There are also times when adults are needed to supervise groups (background checks are required for any supervisor roles). Volunteers will need to complete a behavioral expectation form. Please see a leader for more information.

Besides volunteering, there are other ways to help our club by sponsoring trophies, sponsoring awards, or sponsoring a stall within our horse barns at the equestrian center. Memorial contributions are always welcome and will be recognized accordingly. To sponsor a trophy, please contact your leader.

When one sponsors a stall, an engraved brass plate is posted in honor or memory of a loved one, business name, farm name, etc., onto the stall itself. Stall sponsorships range in price. If you have any questions or would like more info regarding sponsoring a stall, please contact Grounds Manager Mellisa Steininger at 574-551-6610. Thank you for joining the Fulton County Horse & Pony 4-H Club. Please do not hesitate to contact a leader or board member if you have questions or concerns at any time.

## **THANK YOU FOR JOINING!**

First and foremost, the Fulton County Horse and Pony Club would like to thank you for joining. We look forward to getting to you know you and helping in any way possible to strengthen your equine skills and knowledge. We hope you will enjoy the 4-H season and help our club grow even more. Best of luck to you this show season!

The following information is presented as an overview only for the Fulton County Horse & Pony 4-H Club members. The purpose of this overview is to inform new members about what to expect throughout the 4-H year and what our club has to offer. Some dates and events are subject to change. Such information should be verified for the current year.

The rules and guidelines, regarding Fulton County 4-H and the Horse & Pony 4-H Project, please see the Indiana 4-H Horse & Pony Handbook and The Project Summary Guide. Both can be obtained online. Some things have changed in the Project Summary Guide so please review it. The classes of our show that are listed in the Summary Guide may change, depending on entries and interest.

In order for us to keep you informed, please keep your contact information updated with us. If for any reason you would like information sent to two separate addresses, please inform us of that as well. Information cards are available at the meeting to record all of the above information.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact an officer or board member:

<b>OFFICERS</b>		
Julie Moore	President / Leader	574-505-0042
Leslie Crissinger	Co-Leader	574-835-0255
Jordan Moore	Vice President	574-382-0386
Nancee Ward	Secretary	574-835-5280
Mellisa Steininger	Treasurer / Grounds Manager	574-551-6610
<b>ADVISORY BOARD</b>		
Josh Moore		574-297-8226
Linda Herendeen		574-551-4182
Adam Martin		574-220-0113
Stacie Heiman		574-835-6672
Kylee Coughenhour		574-268-7834
Harry Caudill		574-551-6091
Julie Rans		574-930-1413
Grace Moore		765-398-0733
Purdue Cooperative Extension		574-223-3397

## **WATCH FOR CHANGES, CANCELLATIONS AND ADDITIONS**

Facebook: @TheFultonCountyHorseAndPonyClub  
[www.facebook.com/TheFultonCountyHorseAndPonyClub](http://www.facebook.com/TheFultonCountyHorseAndPonyClub)

Website: [www.FultonCountyEquestrian.com](http://www.FultonCountyEquestrian.com)

Text Alerts: Sign up for **Remind**, app available for download in Apple & Google Play

## **FORMS & DUE DATES – (It is recommended you keep copies of all forms submitted)**

Below is a list of the forms with due dates. It's always best to check with the club's leader to verify the due date for each current year.

Forms are usually available at the club meetings. If forms are not available at the meetings, they may be obtained from the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service Office.

### **ENROLLMENT FORM**

(Online January 15th) **ALL** 4-H members must enroll online, along with a \$15 "State 4-H Program Fee" per child. A maximum of three children fees per family will be required. Mini 4-H members are exempt from this fee. This is a state mandated fee to assist Purdue University in the operation of the 4-H program, with 100% of collected fees being used to support the Indiana 4-H programs. Paper enrollments may be accepted at the extension office after the online deadline.

**\*When completing the enrollment, members will need to check the club of their choosing and their projects. Horse & Pony is a club and a project. The 4-H Extreme Challenge is a separate project from Horse & Pony and must be checked separately on the enrollment form. May 15<sup>th</sup> is the drop and add deadline for project changes.**

**\*Members of Horse and Pony MUST attend 3 (three) Horse & Pony Club meetings, 3 (three) clean-ups, 3 (three) workshops or open arena, and complete a demonstration (approved by the Leader), in order to participate in the 4-H Fair Fun show.**

### **LEASE AGREEMENTS**

**Lease Agreements MUST** be turned in by **April 1st** to the **Advisory Board** for approval. **A lease is when a 4-H member is showing a horse or pony owned by someone other than the 4-H member or immediate family.** All lease agreements must be approved by the advisory board and the 4-H Council. Once approved, lease agreements will be filed with Purdue on May 1st. If a Parent, Grandparent or Guardian owns the equine, then a lease agreement is not necessary.

### **ANIMAL LOCATION FORM**

(Due May 15th). **ALL MEMBERS** must complete an Animal Location form to verify the location where the animal will be located over the duration of the 4-H season. Farm visits may be announced to review housing and animal condition scoring.

### **ANIMAL SUBSTITUTIONS**

No animal substitutions will be allowed after May 15. It is strongly suggested that you sign every animal up for the fair in case your primary animal is unable to come to the fair.

### **IDENTIFICATION (I.D.) FORM**

(Due May 1st). **ALL** members must complete an I.D. Form in 4-HOnline with 2 (two) color photographs showing the face and all 4 legs (close-up). It is the member's responsibility to complete this properly. Members can enroll up to 5 (five) horses, and families can enroll the same horses, but can only take 3 (three) to the fair. Each horse may only be exhibited by 1 (one) member and selection must be made by the horse I.D. date.

### **PEN CARDS**

In order to have stall cards printed and hung prior to arrival, pen cards are due by June 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **VACCINATION RECORDS**

(Form due on or before May 15th, and prior to any horse activities such as Workshops and Fun Shows which the equine will participate)

**\*Each equine enrolled is REQUIRED to receive a 5-way (Eastern, Western, Tetanus, Rhino, and Influenza), West Nile, and Rabies equine vaccination to be eligible to be show at the workshop fun show and the 4-H fair. It is recommended but not required, that a Strangles vaccine also be given. A Vaccination Form along with the Veterinarian's receipt or a current receipt of the vaccine purchased (if you administer your own vaccines) is acceptable and will be kept on record. Vaccination forms or copies MUST be brought to all activities which the horse is participating. It is recommended that you keep your original forms at home in a safe place and bring copies of these to each activity where it is required.**

### **RECORD SHEET - PROJECT SHEET**

Members who are bringing a horse to the fair are encouraged to complete records sheets. If a member is not showing a horse at the fair, the project can be completed by submitting the record sheet.

### **ACHIEVEMENT RECORD**

(Due before the end of the county fair) **ALL** members must complete an achievement record. Horse and Pony project members will need to record each placing awarded on trophy show days (usually Monday and Tuesday but may be subject to change), during the 4-H fair, along with all other completed projects, meetings, workshops, etc. Results from the State Fair may be added after completion.

## **STATE FAIR ENROLLMENT**

Online enrollment is from March 1st to July 1<sup>st</sup> and has a \$15 fee. Late enrollment is accepted with a \$50 late fee. Please see the Indiana State Fair Entry Booklet for additional information regarding state fair entries at [www.indianastatefair.com/p/state-fair](http://www.indianastatefair.com/p/state-fair)

## **POINTS/AWARDS**

Members will receive 5 (five) points for their participation at each Horse and Pony designated event and meeting. In order for a member to receive points, they **MUST** sign in at each event or meeting. **It is the member's responsibility to sign in at each meeting and/or event.**

**\*Points are accumulated throughout the year. The top junior and senior point earners will be presented an award at the Awards Banquet. To be eligible for one of these awards, a member must accumulate 75% of the total points offered. In the past, awards have included: belt buckles, embroidered Carhartt coats, leather award halters, and more. The banquet is most often held towards the end of the year. The Awards Banquet consists of a carry-in dinner for members and their families, presentation of awards and election/voting of the Horse and Pony Advisory board members. Points will continue to accumulate after the fair for open show clean ups. Points are also used for selection of the horse and pony officers.**

**The 2026 point season will be from January 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026. The 2027 point season will be from October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027. This change is due to our last shows being scheduled in October.**

## **MEETINGS/DEMONSTRATIONS**

Meetings are generally the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month (January-November), unless otherwise announced. Sign in begins at 6:45 p.m., with the meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are usually held in the Community Building or the Everett Smith Building at the Rochester fairgrounds. Members must be present and participate for a minimum of 30 minutes in order for their attendance to count and to receive points. Members leaving early need to sign out on available forms to earn points. If you are attending another 4-H function on the same night as a meeting, we ask that you sign in and pick up your important information. If you have another 4-H event that conflicts with a 4-H meeting talk with your 4-H leader **prior to the event.**

Members in the Horse & Pony club are required to pay dues. A small fee is paid each year and is set by the members of the club.

Every member **MUST** present a 3-to-5-minute demonstration (may be modified at leader's discretion). Demonstrations given on a designated date (usually the June meeting) are

judged and members will earn 5 (five) points if the demonstration is given on that night. Media aids may be used. Please contact your leaders a week prior to demonstrations so that we can provide the necessary media. Demonstrations given other than the designated date will NOT be judged and members *WILL NOT* receive 5 (five) points, but will meet the requirement. Demonstrations unrelated to horses are acceptable.

**\*Members MUST attend 3 Horse & Pony Club meetings, 3 clean-ups, 3 workshops or open arena, and complete a demonstration in order to participate in the fun show during the fair.**

## **WORKSHOPS**

The purpose of the workshops is to help prepare members for the upcoming 4-H Fair show. Workshops are held at the Fulton County Equestrian Center. Some subjects can include, but are not limited to: showmanship, contesting, western, English, jumping, trail, etc. The first two workshops generally begin in May.

Generally, the Workshop Fun Show consists of 2 (two) consecutive days, usually a Friday and Saturday. After the Friday evening workshop, members are more than welcome to stay overnight in their camper/trailer with a Parent or Guardian.

**\*EVERY MEMBER MUST attend 3 Horse & Pony Club 4-H meetings, 3 Clean-ups, 3 workshops or open arena, and complete a demonstration (approved by the Leader), in order to participate in the 4-H Fair Fun show during the fair.**

## **CLEAN-UPS/WORKDAYS**

**\*Clean-ups at the equestrian center and club house will give members another way to earn points. They are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday evenings following the weekend of a horse show hosted at the equestrian center, unless otherwise stated. Shows start in May and continue through October. Help is needed after each event. In order to know which Mondays are clean-up days, please check with a leader, get information at club meetings or visit our Facebook or sign up for the Remind app. Points will continue to accumulate after the fair for open show clean-ups.**

Workdays are scheduled to help prepare for the new show season. We need adult volunteers on this day to help run saws, fix bleachers, etc. However, kids are needed too, and they will earn points for performing **meaningful and productive** work.

**County Wide Clean-up** – Before and after the fair, there are county-wide clean ups. When the work is done, volunteers are fed. Again, more points to earn! Please be sure to sign in!

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – Based on Interest**

With enough interest, the Horse & Pony Club may approve activities for its members to compete in against other Horse & Pony 4-H clubs. Those activities include Groom & Clean, Judging, Horse Bowl and Hippology. For each activity, there will be meetings and

practices held at the coach's discretion, with the approval of the leaders. Members can receive more info about these activities at the Horse and Pony club meetings or by calling a leader.

## **FISH FRY FUNDRAISER**

**\*The Horse & Pony Club fish fry is our biggest fundraiser of the year. It's generally held the first Saturday in February of each year, in the Fulton County Community Building at the fairgrounds. Pre-sale tickets will be handed out at the January club meeting. Each member is asked to sell a minimum of 20 tickets. Unsold tickets and money will be turned in Friday evening before the fish fry.**

All members and parents are needed the day of the Fish Fry to make it successful. A schedule will be available for work times and the task assigned for each member. *\*First year club members will need to contact Leslie Crissinger for your scheduled time.*

Not only is our Fish Fry a great fundraiser for our club, it's also a great way to earn points. Members will receive 5 (five) points for selling 20 or more tickets, bringing desserts, and working the assigned shift. Members who commit and work both shifts will earn a bonus of 5 points for a total of 10 total working points. The Fish Fry alone can earn a member 20 points!

If a member cannot attend the January meeting or does not receive tickets, please contact a club leader.

## **RULEBOOK – Each family will receive a rulebook.**

\*All classes are judged according to the rules and guidelines specified in the Indiana Horse and Pony 4-H Handbook at: [www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/4h/4-h-661-w.pdf](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/4h/4-h-661-w.pdf).

**The rulebook can be saved and printed. It is recommended that each parent, guardian and club member read the rulebook, become familiar with the basic rules as well as the rules of the specific classes they plan on showing. Many complaints about judging can be avoided by knowing the rules and how each class is judged. This is good horsemanship and good stewardship of the 4-H program.**

## **STALLS**

Each member will be assigned a stall for fair week. Equines **MUST** stay all week, with the exception of a sick or injured horse - only then, if approved by the club leader and/or a veterinarian's evaluation, can an equine leave before the scheduled dismissal.

A tack stall for storing feed, hay and tack may be available. It's recommended that all valuable tack be locked up. You may have to purchase your own lock for the gate on your tack stall but if sharing with another member, be sure to share the key or combination.

**\*It's usually HOT, HOT, HOT during fair week. Horses must have access to fresh clean water at all times. Fans are permitted and encouraged for your equines. All extension cords MUST HAVE a three-prong ground plug. These will be checked.**

**\*Each stall is required to have at least 1 bag of shavings. Members may bring their own shavings or purchase them at the fairgrounds. STRAW IS NOT ALLOWED.**

**ALL** empty shavings bags must be disposed of in the designated area or dumpster. Please **DO NOT** put them in the trash cans.

Stalls **MUST** be stripped (all shavings and waste removed) and approved by a board member or leader prior to your equine leaving after the fair.

**Members are responsible for keeping their own stalls and aisle clean at all times.** Please bring your own supplies. The club will provide a few wheelbarrows for members to use. Each member must dump the wheelbarrow after each use. Don't let manure sit in the wheelbarrows.

A stall decorating contest is held during the fair. The stall decorating theme will be based on the Costume Class Theme. Stalls can be decorated at the member's own cost and imagination. Please do not use balloons or candles.

\*A top **Herdsmanship** award will be given to the member who has kept the cleanest area and stalls during the week of the 4-H Fair. Stalls will be checked randomly throughout the week.

Camping with electrical hookup is available during the fair. A small rate does apply. **THIS INCLUDES CAMPERS AND HORSE TRAILERS USING ELECTRIC.** Please contact Julie Moore for more info or to reserve a site.

**ALL** empty trailers not being used for camping should be parked on the west side of the barn near the crop field.

**No** parking allowed north of the south barns.

All Participants and Members are required to pay \$5 per horse to show in the fun show.

**ALL** members **MUST** show each of their equines in a halter class (English or western type) at the fair. Please see the Project Summary Guide for classes.

Any member showing in a walk/trot class is **ineligible** to show in any other classes requiring a lope/canter (including contesting classes) of the same show.

**ONLY** 4-H members can ride and handle horses on Monday and Tuesday. Immediate family can ride after Monday and Tuesday. **Trainers are not permitted to ride or handle horse at any time during the week.** 4-H members will not be permitted to ride another 4-H member's animal.

**ALL** members **MUST** wear a certified riding helmet when mounted or driving and appropriate Western or English boots with at least a ½” heel when riding. No open-toed shoes or flip flops when handling a horse at any time.

**NO** tank tops or shorts allowed when riding at a 4-H event.

**ONLY** equines 5 years of age and younger (junior) are permitted to use a bosal or snaffle bit (a bit with no leverage) when showing trail and/or western performance classes.

\*Equines **CANNOT** be ridden, bathed, or out of the stall until 6:00 p.m. Sunday. This is for the safety of our members.

### **\*Enrolled MINIS**

Mini members show Wednesday evening. Mini projects may arrive on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. Classes offered are Showmanship, English or Western Walk-Trot Pleasure, Walk-Trot Barrels and Costume Class. All mini exhibitors must have an adult handler and a separate lead attached. Mini animals may leave after the show on Wednesday or may stay the night and go home Thursday after 10:00 p.m. Mini 4-Hers may not ride their animals outside of their mini show on Wednesday.

Other classes for kids in second grade and under who are not enrolled in mini 4-H are Lead line, Boot Race, Stick Horse Barrels, Flags, and Lead Line. Enrolled mini 4-H kids may show in these classes.

### **ALL HORSES BROUGHT FOR MINI SHOW MUST HAVE VACCINATION CERTIFICATES**

If you still have questions or need help, please do not hesitate to contact one of the leaders. The goal is to make this project a positive learning experience for members and their families.

# Excellence in Leadership Challenge

*What is awarded:*

- One Leadership trophy saddle and buckle to a regular club member. Minis do not qualify.

*How the saddle and buckle are earned:*

- Throughout the year, we will observe members at club meetings, hosted shows, events, clinics, clean-ups, fundraisers, other in-club events, etc. We are looking for the member who best demonstrates positive leadership qualities consistent with the motto of 4-H, practicing genuine sportsmanship and horsemanship, actively learning and developing leadership skills within the club, and encouraging fellow members to do the same. We are looking for members who are positive role models to others, who are goal-oriented, who are mentors to others and those who “go above and beyond.”
- We will also be observant of behavior that is negative or that which does not contribute to the positive overall leadership growth of the member. Examples of this could be but are not limited to poor treatment of other members and animals, negative attitudes, not performing meaningful work during a scheduled work shift, etc.
- Activities outside of the Horse and Pony Club do not count towards this honor. All observations are done only at in-club events and activities. For example: A member signs up to volunteer at a local equestrian charity for a few hours, grooming horses and cleaning stalls and spending time with disabled riders. The volunteer work was not organized or offered by the club, but the member volunteered on their own time. While this is an admirable act of leadership and mentorship which will serve others well, we have no way of observing it, nor verifying its direct impact to the Horse and Pony Club or its members.

Activities within the club count. Examples may include but are not limited to:

- Taking over an extra work shift at a club hosted horse show or fundraising event
- Showing grace and accepting the decisions and opinions of others even if they disagree
- Helping a new member become familiar with how the club operates or introducing them to other members of the club and its officers
- Referring new members who have never been in Fulton County Horse and Pony before
- Offering to help a member with less horsemanship experience a safer way to do something with their horse or pony
- A member who is very good at putting together his or her demonstrations offering to help other members improve their demonstrations
- Offering solutions, being a good listener, putting others first before themselves, etc.

There are many, many examples and ways a member can rise to the challenge of being an exemplary leader and mentor. This is where parents and guardians come in, too. Become a part of your child’s development as a leader. Members who earned a saddle will not qualify to earn another saddle for three years. For instance, those who earned a saddle in 2025 will not be able to earn a saddle again until the 2029 year.

Each member who we considered for the saddle and we feel are deserving of being recognized as a youth leader and mentor will earn a Leadership Award at the awards banquet. These awards

may include engraved buckles, headstalls, blankets, spurs, engraved stirrups, breast collars, or other nice trophy tack.

Nancee Ward and Mellisa Steininger will issue a form some time during the year to each member to fill out. This form will ask each member what kind of award they prefer should they be considered for a Leadership Award or saddle. Any questions about this program may be directed to either Nancee or Mellisa.

We look forward to seeing only the best effort put forward by each member in their pursuit of leadership excellence. Please see the included flyer on the next page for more information.

# FULTON COUNTY HORSE & PONY CLUB 2026 EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A FUTURE LEADER IN YOUR COMMUNITY? DO YOU HAVE EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP QUALITIES? ARE YOU A MENTOR TO YOUR FELLOW 4-H MEMBERS? SHOW US WHAT YOU GOT!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THOSE WHO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND, AND WHO DEMONSTRATE GENUINE SPORTSMANSHIP, HORSEMANSHIP AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS THAT EXEMPLIFY THE VERY MOTTO OF THE 4-H PROGRAM.

THE CHALLENGE IS OPEN TO ALL REGULAR 2026 FULTON COUNTY 4-H HORSE AND PONY MEMBERS. IT IS NOT BASED ON PLACINGS AT THE COUNTY FAIR OR POINTS EARNED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

## THE LEADERSHIP SADDLE

THE CLUB MEMBER WHO BEST DEMONSTRATES THE QUALITIES BECOMING OF A FUTURE LEADER WILL BE HONORED WITH A LEADERSHIP TROPHY SADDLE, TO BE PRESENTED AT THE 2026 AWARDS BANQUET.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE EARNED THE LEADERSHIP SADDLE WILL NOT QUALIFY FOR THE FOLLOWING THREE YEARS. FOR EXAMPLE: A MEMBER WHO EARNED A SADDLE IN 2025 WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR THE SADDLE AGAIN UNTIL THE 2029 4-H YEAR. THESE MEMBERS MAY STILL EARN ANOTHER LEADERSHIP AWARD, REGARDLESS OF WHAT YEAR THEY EARNED A SADDLE.

EVERY REGULAR CLUB MEMBER WHO WAS CONSIDERED FOR THE SADDLE AND WHO EXEMPLIFIES THE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES THAT THE 4-H PROGRAMS PROMOTES, WILL EARN A LEADERSHIP AWARD, TO BE PRESENTED AT THE 2026 AWARDS BANQUET.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:  
MISSY STEININGER AT 574-551-6610 OR  
NANCEE WARD AT 574-835-5280



Facebook: @TheFultonCountyHorseAndPonyClub

www.FultonCountyEquestrian.com • fultoncountyequestrian@gmail.com