

OVERVIEW

WELCOME . . .

The Wisconsin 4-H Horse Association would like to welcome you to the 4-H Horse & Pony project. This handbook has been prepared as a guide to the many opportunities available within Wisconsin's 4-H Horse & Pony Project.

COUNTY . . .

Each county within Wisconsin is responsible for setting up and implementing their individual program. Your first step would be to contact your county UWEX 4-H & Youth agent. He or she will be able to provide information about your specific county program. Understanding and working with your county program will present many rewarding opportunities.

The Wisconsin 4-H Horse Association does NOT coordinate or direct individual county programs. To participate in state events a 4-H youth must be a member in good standing at the county level, (as certified by signature of a horse project leader and the county UWEX agent on entry form). The youth must also complete eligibility requirements specified within the Wisconsin 4-H Horse Association rules (IE: won a blue ribbon in qualifying class at the county fair show). In addition, the horse must be carried as a 4-H project for the current year and comply with all health regulations specified in current guidelines.

It is recommended that each county select two youth delegates (and one alternate) to represent their individual county at the district 4-H youth horse project meetings.

DISTRICT . . .

The Wisconsin 4-H Horse Association is divided into six extension administrative districts: Western, Northern, Southern, Central, Southeast and Northeast (refer to handbook for list of counties included in each district). Each district is responsible for setting up a working structure to meet their individual needs.

District meetings are open to all 4-H Horse and Pony Project youth and adult leaders. Each district will hold a spring and a fall meeting.

In addition, the annual Association meeting for all districts is held at the Fall Leader Conference. For information on your district meetings (date, time, location) contact one of your district directors. District meetings give individual counties the opportunity to voice their concerns and share information. Directors are responsible for reporting to the state board concerns and/or information presented at the district meetings. In addition, directors bring information from the state board meetings back to their individual districts.

At the individual fall district ADULT meeting elections are held for the adult directors. Each district is represented on the state board by three elected directors (each serving a three-year term). In addition, each district may elect one alternate (for a one year term). The elected alternate will have voting rights at the state meeting if a regular director from his or her district is absent. (Directors and elected alternates serving on the State Board of Directors may NOT be from the same county.)

At the individual fall district YOUTH meetings elections are held for youth officers. Each district elects a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary. In addition to the duties of their office, these youth become voting members of the State Youth Board. (Youth directors and elected alternates serving on the State Youth Board of Directors may NOT be from the same county.)

STATE . . .

The **Wisconsin State 4-H Horse Association** was developed to:

1. Plan, promote and implement educational programs in the area of horse science for Wisconsin youth and their leaders.
2. Assist in the development of educational activities in horse science that will enhance the growth and development of youth.
3. Stimulate interest in and promote youth programs with horses.
4. Promote, sponsor and/or implement educational activities and events in horse science for youth.
5. Provide and/or encourage horse science and youth development education for volunteer leaders.
6. Plan and coordinate the State 4-H Horse Expo.

All currently enrolled 4-H Horse and Pony or Horseless Horse adult leaders in the state of Wisconsin are members of the Association.

The Board of Directors is made up of three enrolled adult horse project leaders from each of the six extension administrative districts, the Executive Secretary (ex-officio), and the State Extension Specialist (ex-officio). Officers of the Association consist of President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The Wisconsin 4-H Horse Association sponsors the following State events:

- State clinics are scheduled in various locations throughout the state (see annual listing for locations and topics)
- Midwest Horse Fair 4-H Booth
- Wisconsin Pack and Trail Ride Weekend
- State Hunt and Dressage Show
- State Gymkhana
- State 4-H Horse Expo
- Annual Fall Leader Conference

The **Wisconsin State 4-H Youth Horse Association** was developed to:

1. Gather information and ideas from other youth to take to the State 4-H Horse Association.
2. Assist the Wisconsin State 4-H Horse Association in the decision making process for the betterment of the 4-H Horse and Pony Project.
3. Encourage interest in and promote 4-H programs with horses.
4. Work with the Adult Leaders Board to implement, improve and promote educational Activities in the 4-H Horse and Pony Project.
5. Assist the Wisconsin State 4-H Horse Association in the planning and coordinating of the State 4-H Horse Expo and State Gymkhana and other State 4-H Horse Association events.

The Wisconsin 4-H Youth Horse Association coordinates the following events:

- All-around award
- Sportsmanship award
- Social Events
- T-shirt design contest
- Barn awards

The Youth Board of Directors is made up of three enrolled horse project leaders from each of the six extension administrative districts. Officers of the Association consist of Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.

AMERICAN YOUTH HORSE COUNCIL . . .

The National Youth Horse Leader Symposium offers opportunities for youth and adults. If any member is interested in giving a presentation at the Symposium, an application form must be completed indicating the chosen topic. Youth who are selected to represent Wisconsin receive partial funding from the Wisconsin 4-H Horse Association. Wisconsin also makes plans to send a bus for youth and adults who would like to attend the Symposium.

REGIONAL/NATIONAL CONTESTS . . .

Youth who compete in the following educational events at State 4-H Horse Expo MAY be selected to represent the State of Wisconsin at either Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio or the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in Louisville, Kentucky:

- Public Speaking
- Horse Judging
- Hippology
- Horse Bowl
- Individual Demonstration
- Team Demonstration

Further information is given to eligible youth immediately following the presentation of awards at State 4-H Horse Expo.

SCHOLARSHIPS . . .

The Wisconsin 4-H Horse Association has a scholarship program open to all current 4-H Horse members or alumni. For more information contact the Association Vice-president.