

Wisconsin Valley Junior Fair Horse & Horseless Horse Education Requirements

The Wisconsin Valley Fair implemented a Horse Education (and Socialization) requirement in 2008. That requirement continues in 2009 and beyond.

Horse & Horseless Horse Educational Requirement: The basic requirement says that all horse (including horseless horse and pet horse) exhibitors, and their horses must participate in two educational programs where the horse is actively “worked” (ridden, led at halter, driven, etc.) with other horses on a premise other than their home farm or place of residence. This requirement is to be fulfilled between January 1 and the July deadline set by the fair*. All youth and adult participants must comply with 4-H safety guidelines (helmets, boots, etc.) throughout the program. A participation form signed by the clinician or leader will be required. No exceptions.

**In 2009, there will be an exception to the timeframe for participation in the programs. No more than 1 requirement may be fulfilled between August 4, 2008 and December 31, 2008 toward qualification in the 2009 fair. In all years following 2009, the exhibitor will be required to fulfill both requirements between January and the first Tuesday in July of the fair year.*

Responsibilities of the Youth Participant:

All youth exhibitors are ultimately responsible for completing the educational requirements and submitting the paperwork to validate their compliance. The paperwork must be complete and submitted with original signatures (not copies) by the required deadline. These forms are available at the Mandatory Horse meeting in spring, and on-line at the Marathon County 4-H website, marathon.uwex.edu.

Events that qualify for education requirements:

- ✓ 4-H Sponsored educational clinics (these include programs held in other counties by the 4-H program).
- ✓ 4-H Club Project meetings supervised by “certified” 4-H leaders who have participated in mandatory leader training, screening, etc. (These clinics can be taught by others under the leader’s direct supervision.)
- ✓ 4-H Trail Rides with an educational component led by “certified” 4-H leaders who have participated in mandatory leader training, screening, etc.
- ✓ 4-H sponsored horse shows (not state competitions such as State 4-H Horse Show) where all 4-H rules and safety procedures are enforced
- ✓ An FFA sponsored horse event meeting safety guidelines of required helmets, boots, etc., supervised by an FFA advisor or sponsored by the FFA organization.

(OVER)

Events that do not qualify for education requirements:

- ✓ Privately sponsored events (Golden Horseshoe, Merrill Riders, Boot and Saddle, private arenas, Interscholastic, etc.) unless they are co-sponsored by 4-H or FFA and approved by the Junior Fair Superintendent (Jean Berger) prior to advertising the program. The program must be held in an alcohol free environment; contain an educational component; and ALL participants (adult and youth) in the entire program must comply with safety guidelines of helmet use, footwear, etc. An FFA advisor or “certified” 4-H Leader must be present at the event and take responsibility for the implementation of required guidelines.
- ✓ County Fairs and State Horse show do not qualify for this requirement.
- ✓ Youth cannot “test out” of the education requirements by attending multiple non-qualifying events (for example, a series of horse shows). No exceptions.

Showing in Multiple Disciplines: Horses will need to be “worked” in the same category in which they are intended to be shown for a minimum of 1 of the requirements. For example, if the horse is showing in riding classes, at least one of the educational requirements must be fulfilled in a riding program. If that same horse is participating in Gymkhana, one would need to be in games and one in a riding area. (It doesn’t need to be a specific riding discipline, such as Western or English, just a riding area). The same rules apply for Driving, Games, etc.

Showing Two Horses: If an exhibitor is showing two horses at the fair, each horse must be “worked” at a minimum of one program within the discipline in which it is to be shown. However, if at fair time, only one horse comes to the fair...that horse had to have completed two requirements in order to qualify. Failure to do so, will disqualify the horse. If youth are registering two horses on pre-fair documents, they are advised to participate in pre-fair education programs so as to qualify any of their horses for fair (two events for each horse), or be at risk of not being qualified for the fair in August.