



Dunn County 4-H Horseless Horse Project Guidebook



I. **Definitions for Horseless Horse**

- A. A horseless horse project member is defined as a 4-H member who has no one-on-one access to a horse. They do not own their own horse. Their family does not own or lease a horse. (Cloverbuds may not be horseless project members.) - *WI State guidelines*

II. **Goals**

- A. To provide an educational and interesting learning experience for youth who are interested in horses but do not have access to horses or to people who are knowledgeable about horses. The project is designed to accommodate youth who have an interest in horses but know little or nothing about them. This group usually includes urban and rural youth of all social and economic levels.
- B. The project should afford such youth to have varying amounts of horse contact and to learn basic elementary information about horses.
- C. The goal in this project is youth development and the horse is a tool to accomplish this.

III. **Horseless Horse Project Levels.** Youth may participate for 3 years in Horseless Horse. They must show progress through the levels.

A. ***HORSELESS HORSE 1***

1. Explore horse behavior, terms and breeds, identify body parts
2. Learn grooming, saddling and bridling
3. Learn about safety and equipment
4. HorsesResource: 08053, Giddy Up and Go
5. 4H266, Horses are Fun-Horseless Horse

B. ***HORSELESS HORSE 2***

1. Learn about horsemanship
2. Explore judging and oral reasons
3. Learn selection, training and showing
4. Resource: 08054, Head, Heart & Hooves

C. HORSELESS HORSE 3

1. Explore horse breeding, genetics and heredity
2. Understand horse disease and prevention
3. Learn about fencing, pasturing and housing
4. Explore horse-related careers
5. Resource: 08055, Stable Relationships

D. HORSE/HORSELESS HORSE YOUTH LEADER

IV. Youth Equine Project Membership (YEP): membership is required of Horseless Horse members

- A. The required Youth Equine Project membership provides you with many opportunities to learn more about yourself and your horse. You'll get to know other 4-H families who are interested in learning the same things you are. Experienced members are anxious to help new members learn what they have learned.
- B. **Membership:** Membership is open to those belonging to any 4-H club in Dunn County. An annual family membership due is required for Yep Membership. This membership is in addition to your annual Horseless Horse project and local club enrollment. Once membership for the current 4-H Horse Association year is paid you are able to participate in YEP events, run for office and be eligible to vote.
- C. **YEP meetings:** This group meets monthly on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Community Services Building, room 54. Some meetings may be held in conjunction with clinics and may result in the meetings being at a different locations or a different date and time.
- D. Please make sure YEP has your current email info to stay updated.
- E. Join the YEP facebook group (Dunn County YEP) to keep updated on YEP activities as well.

V. YEP sponsored Horseless Horse activities

A. Horseless Horse Project Winter assignments and meetings (required)

1. Reading assignments will be given prior to a regularly scheduled Horseless Horse project meeting during the winter months. Youth should have these assignments completed before the meeting to be able to participate in the hands on activities and outings offered each month.
2. Youth will need to complete all the winter assignments and activities before being allowed to participate in the

summer Thursday evening weekly hands on learning or at the Dunn County Fair.

B. Summer Hands On Mentor Opportunity

1. Horseless Horse level 1-3 youth have the opportunity to learn from older Horse Project members (mentors) at their weekly ride nights. They will help the Horse mentors groom, tack and warm up, watch and do groundwork and showmanship exercises with the mentors and/or owners that are present on ride nights.
2. Appropriate attire and boots are required. Horseless Horse members may use the owners grooming equipment.
3. Horseless Horse Youth also are encouraged to watch the older youth ride at the practice and specialty clinics.
4. Horseless Horse parents/guardians are discouraged from doing any hands on activity with the horses, unless they as well have appropriate attire and training. If a parent/guardian desires to help, this must be approved by the Horseless Horse leader.

C. Participate with the Horse Education Team: Horse bowl, Hippology and Judging

D. Participate in Area Animal Science Days

E. Give a horse-related demonstration speech at your local club meeting or a YEP meeting

F. **VOLUNTEER TIME** – The success of the YEP relies on the active participation of all members and their family's support. It cannot depend on the leadership committees only to handle all duties & responsibilities that go along with the program. Opportunities for volunteer time will be communicated throughout the year.

G. Free audits (observe only) of YEP clinics

H. The Dunn County 4H Horse project is not able to provide horses for Horseless Horse members to ride or show at the Fair. However, all Horseless Horse members are encouraged to take either private or small group lessons from a professional or experienced friend or 4H member in the area. None are endorsed by YEP, it is up to the member and the family to choose wisely.

I. If a Horseless Horse member does find a horse to lease they need to switch to a Horse member status.

VI. **Dunn County Fair**

- A. Read and abide by Dunn County fair book rules online at:
<https://dunncountyfair.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Junior-Fair-Book.pdf>
- B. Horseless Horse members are required to be present during the entirety of the Mandatory meeting, the Game and the Pleasure show.
- C. Help with the Horse show: barn duty, gate help, ribbons, announcer stand, food stand, ring steward, etc. Sign up sheets will be available at the mandatory meeting before the fair.
- D. Help groom horse with mentor (youth Horse member) or horse owner.
- E. Year 2 and 3 Horseless Horse members may show a mentor's horse at the Dunn County fair in Horseless Horse Western Showmanship with approval of the Horseless Horse adult leader, the Youth mentor, and owner of the horse. Horseless Horse parents/guardians are not allowed to handle the horse during the fair, unless approved by Horseless Horse leader.
- F. **Other Dunn County Fair EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITIES** Following is a suggestion of projects that could be done by members to exhibit at the Dunn County Fair. (please check the fair-book Dept. 10 for even more possibilities) 1. Poster depicting history of a breed 2. Horse safety poster 3. Scrapbook containing ten breeds with information about each 4. Poster on diseases and parasites of horses 5. Poster on careers in the horse world 6. Drawings of markings of horses 7. Poster on good horse grooming 8. Any other project related to horses

VII. **Horseless Horse State Fair Opportunities**

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wi4haganimalscience/wi-4-h-horse-assn-handbook/>

Horseless Horse project members may participate in Education Days, Model Horse Show, Horse Expo Educational Contests, and Expo qualifying Horseless Horse events. Please explore above link for the many State level opportunities available to Horseless Horse project members.

IMPORTANT LIABILITY NOTICE

All parties should remember that horses are large animals, and the care and riding of horses is considered by Wisconsin Law to be inherently dangerous. Horse owners are making their animals available for use without profit for the benefit of 4-H members interested in horses. The Wisconsin Recreational Activities Law (Sec. 895.52 Wis. Stats.) applies to activities conducted under this agreement:

895.52 Recreational Activities; limitation of property owner's liability (1) Definitions. In this section: ...*(b) Injury* means an injury to a person or to property. ...*(c) Private property owner* means any owner other than a government body or nonprofit organizations, that owns, leases or occupies property. ...*(f) Property* means real property and buildings, structures and improvements thereon, and the waters of the state... ...*(g) Recreational activity* means any outdoor activity, undertaken for the purpose of exercise, relaxation or pleasure, including practice or instruction in any such activity.. [It] includes...horseback riding...animal training. **(2)No duty; immunity from liability.** (A) Except as provided in subs (3) to (6), no owner and no officer, employee or agent of an owner owes to any person who enters the owner's property to engage in a recreational activity: 1. A duty to keep the property safe for recreational activities. 2. A duty to inspect the property, except as provided under s.23.115(2). 3. A duty to give warning of an unsafe condition, use or activity on the property. (b) Except as provided in subs (3) to (6), no owner...is liable for any injury to, or any injury caused by a person engaging in a recreational activity on the owner's property...

This is a summary of the applicable statutory sections of this law. Anyone wishing a more complete understanding of the provisions of this law should consult an attorney.