April 8, 2016

Dear 4-H Horse Project Members,

Registered 4-H members in Iosco County may be eligible to apply to be an Iosco County 4-H delegate for the 2016 Michigan 4-H State Horse Show. Selection of delegates is a competitive process as Iosco County can only send a few delegates to the event. The Michigan 4-H State Horse show is scheduled for August 19-20, 2016 at the Michigan State University Pavilion. This event is open to Iosco County 4-H Horse project members who are 13 years old and older as of January 1, 2016 that are selected as delegates by the county. After you review the following information please consider applying for this prestigious event as participating in the event will allow you to represent Iosco County’s finest riders and get to know other 4-H riders from across the state.

What is the 4-H State Horse Show? The State 4-H Horse Show is a three-day event that brings together more than 500 4-H’ers representing all 83 Michigan counties. English and Western, trail, jumping and gymkhana classes are offered for horses and ponies. In addition, classes for draft and miniature horses are also offered as well as classes for 4-H PEP (4-H Proud Equestrians — therapeutic riding program) participants. Members are selected by their county 4-H programs to attend this event. Spectators are welcome! The Michigan 4-H State Horse Show is held annually at the MSU Pavilion on the campus of Michigan State University in August. This event brings together delegates from each county and also includes a symposium competition of scrapbook, creative writing, and a State Horse Show T-shirt logo design contest.

How do I get to be a Delegate? You must meet the 2016 Iosco County Eligibility Criteria.

How are Delegates selected? Iosco County has a limited number of Delegates that can participate. A Selection Criteria has been created in the event that there are more Iosco 4-H Riders that want to attend than we have Delegate positions. Iosco County delegate selection for the Michigan 4-H Horse Show delegates will be based on a point system with the following criteria:

- 4-H members must be active in an Iosco County 4-H Horse Club for at least one year prior to applying
- 4-H members must submit a complete application including a cover letter to the MSU Extension office by April 29, 2016
- 4-H member’s accumulation of points from official Iosco County 4-H shows will be tallied
- 4-H members must enter an education horse project to be exhibited at 4-H Achievement Day
• 4-H member’s demonstration of good horsemanship, citizenship, and an all-around good attitude

• Member’s participation in local 4-H club meetings and activities will be considered

• Applicants must undergo a personal interview with a panel of unbiased community members on May 26, 2016.

• Participation in other 4-H activities and events as well as seniority in a horse related 4-H club is also considered

What is a complete application? A complete application must include a State Horse Show application form and an attached cover letter. These forms will be used during personal interviews and in selection of delegates. Cover letters should include the following information:
• How many years have you been in 4-H?
• What club are you a member of?
• What are a few of your biggest accomplishments with your horse?
• Why should you be chosen to represent Iosco County at the State Show?

When will I know if I am a delegate? All applicants will receive a letter from the MSU Extension office letting you know that we have received your application and informing you of your interview time. After receiving all applications and conducting the 4-H Interviews, the Iosco County Horse Developmental Committee will meet with all 4-H Horse Club Leaders to discuss the applications and review the criteria for all applicants. After a decision has been made, all applicants will be notified of the selections. Selected delegates will then receive additional information from the MSU Extension Office.

What else should I know before applying? This process is created to make selection of delegates as unbiased as possible. Do not feel too overwhelmed with all the necessary paperwork or the personal interview. To view the Michigan 4-H Horse and Pony Project rules and regulations book please visit: http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/resources/mi_4h_horse_show_rules.

If you have any questions call the MSU Extension Office at (989) 362-3449 and we wish you luck in the State 4-H Horse Show delegate selection process.

Sincerely,

Kelli Rau
4-H Program Coordinator, Iosco County