St. Joseph County, MI

4-H HORSE COUNCIL

2014 4-H Dressage Program

Registration/Participation Requirements

What Is Dressage? The object of dressage is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse. As a result, dressage training makes the horse not only calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen; thus achieving perfect understanding with its rider. Emphasis in judging is placed on suppleness, basic gaits, figures, impulsion and transitions (change of gait and speed) in performance of the horse as produced by the rider. Conformation is not judged. **Note:** See pages 18-23 of the ***4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations*** bulletin, for additional dressage information.

Attire: See "Michigan 4-H Horse/Pony Project Rules and Regulations" bulletin for information on appropriate dressage tack (i.e. bits, etc.) and exhibitor attire. You may ride Western or English while starting if you are unsure of your tack.

Note: You may register for dressage at any time.

4-H Dressage Program Coordinators: Sharon Jones (269-873-1214, windsweptsj@gmail.com) is the St. Joseph County 4-H Dressage Program Coordinator, and will serve as the instructor for the 4-H Horse Council-sponsored dressage clinics listed below. Assisting Sharon in 2014 will be Leilani Taylor (269-625-7151).

Attention: Wearing of a regulation safety helmet is required during 4-H dressage clinics, and during dressage classes at any and all 4-H Horse Council-sponsored horse shows and the St. Joseph County Grange Fair. Helmet must meet the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) F1163 testing standards, and must be manufactured and distributed by a participant in the certification program of the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) and must bear the SEI label. **Note:** Snaffle bit is recommended.

The clinics listed below are not mandatory to participate in 4-H dressage classes. However, if you are new to the sport of dressage, or want to build on your dressage-related skills, it is strongly suggested that you make one of the first month workouts. Later workouts will be spent on perfection of patterns and tests. Information sheets for each test level are available at the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office, Centreville. If you would like to try Dressage, but do not have English equipment, please come to learn! We will be happy to assist you in finding equipment once you get started! ☺

4-H Dressage Clinics: The 2014 4-H Horse Council-sponsored "hands-on" dressage clinics will be held at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds (Please use the Franklin St. entrance by the race horse barn).

Day/Date	Time	Location	Topic
Wednesday, June 11	7:00 p.m.	Fairgrounds	Intro work
Wednesday, June 25	7:00 p.m.	Fairgrounds	Equitation & tests
Wednesday, July 9	7:00 p.m.	Fairgrounds	Equitation & tests
Wednesday, August 6	7:00 p.m.	Fairgrounds	Tests only
Wednesday, August 20	7:00 p.m.	Fairgrounds	Equitation & Scoring Tests
Wednesday, August 29	6:30 p.m.	Windswept Farm*	Tests, music & pairs

*** Windswept Farm –** Sharon Jones' address is 55524 Bucknell Rd, Mendon, MI call 269/873-1214 for directions.

NOTE: You must have a negative Coggin's test with you before entering the fair grounds.

REMINDER: If there is **thunderstorm** or **tornado** watch or warning or a **heat advisory** there is no workout.

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