

2026 Ingham County 4-H State Horse Show Delegate Process

REQUIRED CRITERIA

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| ✓ Be a registered Ingham Co. 4-H member, 12-19 | ✓ Take the written test: 1-10 points |
| ✓ Complete Exhibitor Horse/Pony form | ✓ Show your horse in at least one qualifying show |
| ✓ Complete a State Show Application | ✓ Earn points from your top 8 classes, and/or participation points at IC4H Twilight shows |
| ✓ Volunteer ≥4 hours | |

Open Shows with classes eligible for State Show qualifying points:

- **4-H Leaders Show** – Fri-Sat, June 19-20 (Gymkhana Friday, full show bill Saturday.)
- **CHUM Open Show** – Fri-Sat, June 26-27
- **CHUM Dressage Show** – Sun, June 28 (pre-registration required by June 15)
- **IC4H Twilight Shows** (participation points):
 - Tues. May 26
 - Tues. June 9
 - Tues. July 7

RULES

1. Rider 12-19 years old must be a registered Ingham County 4-H member and completed an Exhibitor Horse /Pony Registration Form by June 1, including Coggins and pictures. Walk Trot exhibitors are not eligible.
2. Horse changes may be requested up to Leaders Show, in the event of a horse injury or death. A new State Show application, Exhibitor Horse/Pony Registration form, coggins, pictures, veterinary statement and letter requesting a change must be submitted to the State Show Delegate Committee for approval.
3. **State Show Application:**
 - a. Complete form by June 1 and submit with Exhibitor Horse/Pony Registration form. One horse per rider.
4. **Volunteer Hours:**
 - a. 4 hours minimum of community service between September 2025 and the 2026 Leaders Show.
 - b. Submit completed State Show Volunteer Hour Log by June 20 to Leaders Show office.
5. **Written Test** of Horse Science, Horsemanship and Rules knowledge.
 - a. Test to be given during Horse Camp on Tuesday, June 16 at 6:00 p.m.
 - b. There will be a make-up test event offered for extenuating circumstances. You must request a make-up test with the State Show Delegate Committee no later than June 15.
 - c. 1 to 10 points. See Ingham County 4-H Horse Handbook for point scale.
6. **Shows & Points:**
 - a. Overall top 8 classes to be calculated per rider at the Leaders Show, CHUM Open Show and Dressage show.
 - b. Class points: ≥6 riders per class: 1st place receives 6 points with 6th place receiving 1 point. When less than 6 riders the point max will be set at the number of riders present (e.g., if a class has 3 riders, 1st place will receive 3 points with 3rd receiving 1 point).
 - c. Eligible classes for Gymkhana: Barrels, Flags, Down & Back, Speed & Action, Poles and Keyhole.
 - d. Eligible classes for Performance: Showmanship, English Pleasure, English Equitation, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Ranch Riding, Ranch Horse Pleasure, Trail*, and Dressage Seat Equitation. (*in-hand trail is not eligible).
 - e. Eligible classes for Dressage: Training Level Test 1, 2 & 3, First level Test 1, 2 & 3, Western Basic Level 1 & 4. Western Level 1, Test 1. Intro Level and musical freestyle are not eligible classes.
 - i. Only 2 dressage test placings will be calculated in top 8 overall classes for points.
 - f. Bonus Points for participating at the Twilight shows of 2 points per show.
7. **Delegate Selection:** State Show Delegate Committee will verify that all criteria have been met and calculate points from the written test, top 8 classes and Twilight show participation. State Show Delegates will be announced and notified no later than July 8. Delegates will receive electronic application and link to registration at that time.
 - a. Per Michigan 4-H Extension, the Ingham County quota for delegates for **2026 is 20 riders**.
 - i. The top 20 riders qualify as Delegates. 4 alternates with the next highest point totals will be identified if one or more of the delegates are unable to compete at the State 4-H Horse Show.
 - ii. State show delegates are responsible for submitting their paperwork & payment online by July 15.

Question may be directed to Jenny Baker, State Show Delegate Committee Chair at 517-896-5265.

Ingham County State Show Application

Must be turned in with the Exhibitor Horse Registration paperwork by **June 1, 2026.**

Name:					
D.O.B		4-H Age:		Rider Phone #:	
Email				Parent Phone #:	
Club:				Leader:	
Horses Name: <i>(Reg & Nickname)</i>					
Section Qualifying:	<i>(Circle one)</i> Ranch Gymkhana Performance				

Explain in 150 words or less, why you want to compete at the Michigan State 4-H Horse Show:
(may attach separate sheet)

Michigan State 4-H Horse Show

What is it? The MI State 4-H Horse Show brings together delegates from each county. Each delegates slot may only compete 1 day of the event. You may arrive the night before and depart the day of. Stalls must be cleaned.

When is it?

Thursday, August 13, 2026 – 12-19 yrs. Ranch, Reining, etc

Friday, August 14, 2026 – 12-19 yrs. Gymkhana

Saturday, August 15, 2026 – 16-19 yrs. Senior: Showmanship, Equitation, Pleasure, Trail, Dressage

Sunday, August 16, 2026 – 12-15 yrs. Junior: Showmanship, Equitation, Pleasure, Trail, Dressage

**Specific schedule & classes not yet published*

Who can participate? Registered Ingham County 4-H members ages 12-19 that are identified as Delegates and meet the criteria.

How do I become a Delegate for Ingham Co?

1. Exhibitor submit an Exhibitor Horse/Pony Registration form & State Show Application by June 1.
2. Complete a minimum of 4 volunteer hours in the current program year and submit documentation.
3. Take the State Show Written Test.
4. Compete at qualifying show(s).
5. Your top eight (8) placing/point will be used to calculate State Show points from designated classes. In addition, you can earn up to 10 points on the written test & bonus points are awarded for participating in Twilight Shows.
6. The top 20 exhibitors, based on meeting all criteria and points earned, will represent Ing. Co. as delegates to compete at the MI State 4-H Horse Show. (4 alternates will be identified.)

State Show Volunteer Hour Log

Must be turned in with application or at Leaders Show Office by Saturday, June 20, 2026.

Name:			
Club:		Leader:	

4-H Volunteer Activities:

Volunteer hours must be performed in the current 4-H year. Paid jobs, or Club fund raisers are not considered volunteer activities. Contact a member of the State Show Delegate Committee if you have questions about specific activities.

Date	Hours	Activity	Supervisor signature & phone #

I have verified that the above information is true and accurate. I understand that failure to record complete, accurate and true information will result in loss of points.

Rider Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Leader Signature

Date