

Horsemanship Expectations for the Northern WI State Fair.

- To compete at the Northern WI State Fair, exhibitors are expected to safely exhibit and care for their animals.
- **Organization leadership** will submit a signed list of proficient riders to the fair office.
 - Members must have mastered each skill on a safety checklist, which emphasizes basic, correct & safe principles of handling & riding.
 - The checklist used by the organization should be attached to the list of names.
- **All documentation is due by: June 21, 2026.**
- **Contact dtotzke@nwsfa.com for assistance.**

SAMPLE member list and signature page.

Name of organization: _____

Print leader's name: _____ Leader's phone # _____

By signing this page, you are certifying that each rider has passed a safety checklist and is prepared to safely exhibit and care for their animal at the Northern WI State Fair.

Leader's signature: _____

Date passed	First	Last	Horse

SAMPLE Safety Skills Checklist on page 2

2026 Northern WI State Fair ~ Junior Fair Exhibit Guide

Year _____

Rider's Name _____

Horse's Name _____

Handling

Mastered Date

Comments:

- 1-1 Approach & catch horse safely
- 1-2 Properly halter the horse
- 1-3 Lead, turn, & back horse safely & correctly
- 1-4 Lead a horse into & out of a stall
- 1-5 Practice safely rules when turning a horse loose
- 1-6 Safely tie horse (correct level, length, location)
- 1-7 Demonstrate simple grooming
- 1-8 Pick up feet & clean properly
- 1-9 Bridle horse- check fit & make adjustments
- 1-10 Saddle horse- check fit & make adjustments
- 1-11 Demonstrate safely around the horse while handling

Riding - to be ridden one or two handed as correct to & discipline

- 1-12 Mount & dismount properly (may use block)
- 1-13 Describe & discuss safely riding in a group
- 1-14 Use proper, basic seat, leg, body position with balance
- 1-15 Proper use of reins; hand position & action

At a walk with control & proper position:

- 1-16 start & stop (gradual & balanced)
- 1-17 check & release (demonstrating control of horse)
- 1-18 turn while walking & walk both directions
- 1-19 ride a circle both directions & do a figure 8

At a jog/trot with control & proper position:

- 1-20 start & stop (gradual & balanced)
- 1-21 check & release (Demonstrating control of horse)

- 1-22 turn while jogging/trotting both directions
- 1-23 ride a circle both directions & do a figure 8

At a canter/lope with control & proper position:

- 1-24 start & stop (gradual & balanced)
- 1-25 check & release (Demonstrating control of horse)
- 1-26 turn while jogging/trotting both directions
- 1-27 ride a circle both directions & do a figure 8
- 1-28 Drop & regain stirrups at a halt
- 1-29 One rein stop
- 1-30 Equipment, clothing, helmet (condition, fit, suitability)
- 1-31 Overall attitude & confidence

Driving Skills Check

Rider's Name _____

Horse's Name _____

Mastered Date _____

Handling: Comments

- 1 Harness: in good repair & appropriate for animal
- 2 Harness: fit
- 3 Demonstrate proper harnessing technique

Driving:

- 4 Enter vehicle safety & appropriately
- 5 Walk- on the rail both directions
- 6 Walk- figure eight
- 7 Trot- on the rail both directions
- 8 Trot- figure 8
- 9 Back- 5 steps
- 10 Demonstrate reverse- by circling
- 11 Demonstrate reverse- diagonal across the arena
- 12 Demonstrate speed variations at the trot
 - Slow gait
 - Working gait
 - Road gait
- 13 Describe proper whip usage
- 14 Equipment, clothing, helmet (condition, fit, suitability)