



## WHAT IS UMECRA?

The Upper Midwest Endurance and Competitive Rides Association is a distance riding organization which sanctions endurance and competitive rides and driving events across the Upper Midwest region.

## WHAT IS DISTANCE RIDING & DRIVING?

There are several different types of events, but essentially distance riding/driving is a distance competition where horse & rider teams compete on a marked course experiencing a variety of trails, terrain and weather conditions. Experienced veterinarians monitor the horses throughout the events. The different events are called **Endurance** (50-100 miles), **Limited Distance** (25-50 miles), **Competitive Trail Riding** (25-50 miles), **Competitive Driving** (up to 25 miles) and **Novice** (less than 15 miles).

**If you & your horse are fit enough to trot an average pace for about an hour, you are ready to give distance riding a try!**

## HOW DO I GET STARTED?

**Look us up online** — The UMECRA and AERC websites have a number of great resources to learn more about distance riding. They also have links to other useful pages & articles. Check out the *New Rider Handbook* on the UMECRA website.

**Find an event near you** — The UMECRA website has the complete schedule posted. It's a great idea find a local ride and volunteer first. You will learn from talking with experienced riders and veterinarians. The vet areas are a great place to learn how a vet check operates. When you're ready to ride, a novice event is a great way to start!

**Find a mentor** — The UMECRA website has a **Mentor List**. Feel free to contact anyone on this list with questions about the sport. They are located across the Midwest and have a variety of experiences. No need to go to a ride unprepared!

**Find us on Facebook** — The UMECRA and AERC Facebook pages are very active with stories, photos and a variety of discussions. Log on to learn more about the gear that people use, their conditioning plans and specific event rules.



“To Finish Is To Win”

