



Introduction to the NH 4-H Horse Project Fact Sheet

UNHCE 4-H Youth Development 4-H Animal Science Work Team

4-H Horse members have the opportunity to learn about riding, driving, gymkhana, management, nutrition, safety and careers in the horse project. Members gain skills in basic horse care to the in-depth knowledge required in some horse events. Horse ownership is not required; there is the lease option and the knowledge events do not require horse ownership.

County and state events allow the member to do demonstrations, public speaking, action exhibits, quiz bowls, judging, hippology, fair programs and more.

Classes for horses include:	Fitting & Show	Equitation
	Pleasure	Trail

(See New England Horse Rule Book for other options)

Required Participant Age: 8-18 as of January 1 of the current year (12 to 18 for State, 14 to 18 for Regional and National Events)

Required Animal Age: Horse over two years of age can be shown in under saddle classes. All equine are suitable for this project area. However, no stallions over one year of age or mares with foals are allowed at shows.

Recommended Animal Vaccinations: Tetanus, EEE, equine herpes, rabies, strangles and for horses stabled outside of NH, a negative Coggins test (AGID)

Recommended Animal Identification: No permanent ID required. Photo, freeze brand, tattoo or microchip can be used.

Forms

Approval Forms: Must be complete with animal information and all signatures. **Due Date:** April 1st for horses going to ESE. **Due Date:** May 1st for horses shown at 4-H Shows or in 4-H classes.

Owned/Leased Form: Ownership or Lease form must be complete with animal information and all signatures and must accompany approval form. Senior horse members (14 to 18) may lease up to two horses if they own none; one additional horse if they own one. **Due Date:** Must correspond with approval form date.

Helmet Release: Must be signed by member and parent.

Policies

NH 4-H Policy on Replacement Animals - If a project animal is unfit during the project year, the member, upon obtaining a replacement animal either owned or leased, must fill out a new Horse Approval Form and have the form verified by an Extension Educator, with the approval of the club (local) leader. The animal may not be shown until 30 days have passed on the new approval form. The animal will not be eligible for State Horse Show or ESE in that year.

If a 4-H member's animals are unable to be exhibited for any reason (illness, death, etc.) and they have other project animals listed on their approval form that are eligible, then there is never any substitution allowed. They may show the remaining animals on their approval form only.

Rabies Requirements for NH 4-H Animals - Upon the recommendation of the New Hampshire State Veterinarian, all mammals shown or exhibited at New Hampshire 4-H events **including fairs, shows, clinics, 4-H club meetings, county activities day or any other event sponsored by 4-H**, must have a current inoculation for rabies given at least 30 days prior to the event. A licensed veterinarian administered rabies vaccination is recommended. Rabies vaccinations cannot be given to 4-H animals under three months of age AND we require the vaccination be given at least 30 days prior to exhibiting an animal. All 4-H project animals must be at least four months of age by show day to be shown, exhibited or brought to any 4-H event.

Other health requirements vary by species and show. Individual shows and fairs may have additional vaccination and health requirements as recommended by the New Hampshire State Veterinarian's office. Always check the fair book for additional health requirements.

Resources

- UNHCE 4-H Horse Project Page - extension.unh.edu/4H/NH4-HHorseProject.htm
- Questions? Call Maryann Kasprzak, 862-2188, staff liaison to the State 4-H Horse Advisory Committee.

Visit our website: extension.unh.edu

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