Introduction to the NH 4-H Equine Project

4-H Horse members may work with any type of equine including horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. You do not need to own or lease an animal to participate; many members participate in the Horse Quiz Bowl, Hippology, Horse Judging and Communications events – all possible without access to a horse or pony. Members have the opportunity to learn about riding, driving, showing in hand, gymkhana, equine management, nutrition, equine science, safety and careers in the equine project.

Members gain skills in basic horse care and may attain in-depth knowledge required in some horse events or disciplines. Horse ownership is not required; there is the lease option and there are many activities and knowledge events that do not require access to an animal.

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

**Shows:** 4-H horse show classes usually include: Fitting & Showmanship, Equitation and a variety of performance classes that may be mounted, driving, or in hand. Refer to the *New England 4-H Horse Rulebook* and the *NH Supplement* for the range of classes and the standards that relate to them. Members age 12+ may qualify via their county process for the State 4-H Horse Show as an exhibitor or a teen leader/stable manager.

**Horse Knowledge Events:** There are several competitive and educational 4-H horse knowledge events open to ages 8-18. 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl is a fast-paced event similar to Jeopardy! where members race to be the first one to answer a question correctly. Hippology is a comprehensive horse knowledge contest with horse judging, quiz, and a problem-solving phase. The 4-H horse judging contest offers members an opportunity to hone their horse judging and communications skills. Communications events include public speaking and demonstrations. There are county and state based educational opportunities, including workshops and clinics throughout the year.

**Forms**

**Intent to Show/4-H Online Animal Registration:** Must be complete with animal information and verification on or before the deadline. **Due Date:** April 1st for horses eligible for ESE. May 1st for horses shown at other 4-H Shows or in 4-H classes. Also required is a Helmet Release form signed by member and parent.

**Lease Form (if applicable):** Lease form must be complete with animal information and all signatures on or before the Intent to Show form deadline. **Due Date:** Must correspond with approval form date.

**Required Participant Age:** 8-18 as of January 1 of the current year (12 to 18 for State 4-H Horse Show, 14 to 18 for Regional and National Events)
Animal requirements: Animal must be over two years of age to show in under saddle classes. No stallions over one year of age or mares with foals allowed at shows.

Animal Vaccinations: Rabies vaccination is required for equines participating at any 4-H event. Horses stabled outside of NH must have a negative Coggins test (AGID) and Health Certificate to enter the state. Follow veterinarian recommendations for other vaccinations. Commonly prescribed vaccinations are: Tetanus, Eastern-Western Encephalitis, West Nile Virus. Your vet may recommend other vaccines depending on what you do and where you travel with your horse including Influenza, rhinopneumonitis Potomac Horse Fever, & Strangles.

Animal Identification: No permanent ID required. You must include photos on your 4-H Online Animal Registration form.

Policies

NH 4-H Policy on Replacement Animals - In exceptional cases, such as if the animal dies or is rendered verifiably unsound and there is no other horse on the members Intent to Show form, the member, upon obtaining a replacement animal either owned or leased, must fill out a new Intent to Show Form and have the form verified by county 4-H program staff, with the approval of the club (local) leader. The animal will not be eligible for State Horse Show or ESE in that year.

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.

Resources

There is a State Horse Advisory Committee which meets three times a year to assist in planning state level opportunities and make recommendations regarding the NH 4-H Horse project. Each county has voting representatives but meetings are open to anyone interested in the NH 4-H Horse program.

Visit the NH 4-H Horse Project web page for links to current resources and events.

Questions

Contact your County 4-H staff member or call Mary Davis, NH 4-H Animal & Agricultural Science Program Coordinator-(603) 862-2188 or email at Mary.Davis@unh.edu

Visit our website: extension.unh.edu