



Introduction to the NH 4-H Equine Project Fact Sheet

4-H Horse 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. 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.

A member may work with any type of equine including horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. 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.

At 4-H horse shows, classes for horses 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.

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)

Required Animal Age: All types of equines are suitable for this project. Horse must be over two years of age to be shown in under saddle classes. No stallions over one year of age or mares with foals are allowed at shows.

Animal Vaccinations: Rabies 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 are: Tetanus, Eastern-Western Encephalitis with Tetanus (EWT), West Nile Virus. Your vet may recommend other vaccines depending on what you do and where you travel with your horse may include: Influenza and Rhino, Potomac Horse Fever, Strangles.

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

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.

Lease Form (if applicable): Lease form must be complete with animal information and all signatures on or before the Intent to Show form deadline. 4-H Horse members may lease up to two horses if they own none; one additional horse may be leased 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 - 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 an Extension Educator, 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.

- [4-H Horse Project Member's Manual:](#)

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource001253_Rep1614.pdf

- [Harness Driving Manual - WA State University:](#)

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000825_Rep860.pdf

- [How to Get Started in a 4-H Horse Project:](#)

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000820_Rep2295.pdf

- [National 4-H Horse Curriculum:](#) <http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-horse/>

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

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