



Introduction to the NH 4-H Equine Project Fact Sheet

4-H Horse members can learn about horse care, riding, driving, showing in hand, gymkhana, equine management, nutrition, equine science, safety and careers in the equine project. 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 borrowing (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, shows, 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 with differing requirements at some events (12 to 18 for ESE, 14 to 18 for Regional and National Events)

Required Animal Age/Breeds: Horse must be over two years of age to be shown in under saddle classes. No stallions over one year of age or mares nursing foals are allowed to be shown in 4-H shows. All breeds and grade (non-registered) horses are welcomed. All types of equines including donkeys, mules, miniature horses, draft horses, and ponies are suitable for this project.

Animal Vaccinations: Rabies vaccination – initial vaccination must be at least 30 days prior to shows or events. Animals must be healthy/free from signs of communicable disease prior to attending any show or event. Certificate of veterinary inspection may be required by some events and is required to bring an animal outside the state of NH.

Recommended Animal Vaccinations: Check with your veterinarian as vaccination and biosecurity recommendations change frequently.

Animal Identification: No permanent ID required. You must include photos on your 4-H Online Animal Registration form or breed registration papers (must be solely in the 4-H member's name) to qualify for Eastern States Exposition (the Big E).

Forms

Intent to Show/4-H Online Animal Registration: Must be complete with animal information and verification on or before the deadline for Eastern States Exposition (the Big E). If the animal is registered solely in the 4-H member's name, 4-H Online Animal Registration is not required.

Due Date: April 1st for horses eligible for ESE. None required for NH 4-H County and State Shows but may be required for fairs and other shows offering 4-H classes.

Animal Borrowing Form (formerly Lease): Borrowing form must be complete with animal information and all signatures on or before the Intent to Show form deadline.

Due Date: April 1 for Big E; not required for other shows.

Helmet Release: Must be signed by member and parent/guardian.

Policies

NH 4-H Policy on Replacement Animals – Replacement equines are allowed at County and State 4-H Horse Shows. Local and fair 4-H shows may have differing rules. No substitution is allowed for Big E.

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 (initial vaccination 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

The State Horse Advisory Committee meets three times a year to help plan 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.

Please see this web page for the NH 4-H Horse Project manual and other resources:

<https://extension.unh.edu/resource/nh-4-h-horse-project-manual-and-resources>

[National 4-H Horse Curriculum](http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-horse/): <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 Manager (603) 862-2188 or email at Mary.Davis@unh.edu

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