



RESPONSIBILITIES OF A NEW HAMPSHIRE 4-H ANIMAL EXHIBITOR

As a 4-H member with an animal project, there are certain responsibilities you must accept if you wish to show your animal. These responsibilities are outlined below; read them before showing your animal. If you have questions, check with 4-H Leaders or 4-H staff who will help you understand your responsibilities.

PROJECT EXPECTATIONS

- Enroll as a 4-H member and keep your membership active by completing the expectations of membership of your club and county.
- Register your animal as a 4-H project by the appropriate deadline if the animal is not registered with a breed registry in the 4-Her's name. Animals not listed by the deadline may not be able to be shown. Requirements and deadlines vary by species and show location. All ESE animal shows have date requirements.
- Check with your county 4-H staff and the NH 4-H website for fact sheets, manuals, and regulations that will help you learn more about your project and the expectations that go with it.
- Learn how to work safely with your animal and follow safety guidelines both at home and at events.

BEFORE AN EVENT

- Make sure that your animal is in compliance with the health regulations published by the NH State Veterinarian and with health regulations for the particular event. Check with the 4-H website or the State Veterinarian for the current regulations.
- Enroll your animal in the event. Most competitions including fairs have deadlines for registering as a participant. As a potential exhibitor you are responsible for requesting the appropriate entry materials, completing them, and submitting them to meet deadlines. Many shows and fairs do this process on the web. Keep a record of the classes you entered.
- Work with your animal regularly to train and prepare for the event. 4-H leaders and more experienced members can help you plan your practice sessions so you and your animal will be ready.
- Gather the appropriate documentation for your project animal and provide it upon arrival at the grounds or when requested.
 - Proof of vaccination
 - Identification (ear tag or tattoo number, leg band, registration papers)
 - Health certificate
 - Other documentation as required by the show or fair
- Compile and bring the supplies and equipment needed to care for and exhibit your animal. Events differ in the items provided exhibitors. All exhibitors are expected to bring their own personal tools and equipment. Check in advance to see what the arrangements are for stabling, bedding, feed, water, etc. and come to the event prepared. A check list is strongly suggested.
- Know the rules and regulations governing the particular event and abide by them. By entering you are agreeing to the conditions and regulations governing that particular event. Ask the show superintendent or your 4-H leader before the event starts if you have questions or need clarification.
- 4-H often uses the Danish System. This means that each entry is evaluated against a standard of perfection and is given a blue, red, or white award reflecting how close to the standard the entry is at

that moment. Become familiar with the standard of excellence for each event and use the judge's comments to improve your performance in the future.

DURING THE EVENT

- Act in a responsible, ethical, sportsmanlike manner at all times while participating in a 4-H event. You are responsible for reflecting the highest standards of honor and integrity and for promoting the 4-H program and agriculture in a positive manner. In addition, older members are expected to model the high standards of positive behavior to younger members.
- Make sure that the entries you are exhibiting meet the requirements and deadlines for a 4-H project animal and are prepared for exhibition by your own efforts. 4-H members are encouraged to work cooperatively, especially older or more experienced members helping younger or more novice members.
- As the exhibitor, you are responsible for all duties relating to your entry and participation in the event, including but not limited to presentation of papers, care and preparation of animals, and any questions or clarification needed from the show management.
- Be on time for your classes. Note changes in the schedule as they are posted or announced. Know what classes you have entered and be at the ring before the previous class is released.
- Treat superintendents, judges, and other officials with respect. These people are working to make this opportunity happen for your benefit and deserve your courtesy, respect, and thanks. If an issue arises, bring it to the attention of the appropriate official and abide by their decision. Once information has been sent out and the governing structure of an activity has been made public, the officials are bound to follow the procedure as publicized. If a procedure or event needs changing, work with the committee after the event to improve it for the future. Officials welcome suggestions for improvement when given in the right spirit.
- Represent 4-H and your project to the general public in a positive way, helping to inform them about 4-H and agriculture.
- Remember that by entering a show, you are asking for the judge's evaluation and must accept the results, good or bad.
- Work with other exhibitors, assisting when possible, helping younger members, sharing the skills you have developed and contribute to the team spirit that makes the 4-H experience more positive for all.
- Set realistic goals for yourself at each event and objectively assess what you have accomplished once the activity is over. Remember, 4-H is making the best better but this can only happen when you are honest about where you are now and where you want to head.
- Finally, enjoy your project and experiences. If you take the time to make sure that you and your animal are prepared then the day of the event you can concentrate on being proud of your performance, enjoying the company of the other exhibitors, sharing your common interests and having fun.

Have a great 4-H year!

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