

# **Kentucky 4-H Horse Program**

## **General Rules**

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## **Section 1- Overview and Philosophies**

The objectives of the KENTUCKY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM are to provide a means for 4-H members to:

1. Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship and other desirable traits of character.
2. Be better prepared for citizenship responsibilities through working in groups and supporting horse projects and activities.
3. Promote a greater love for animals and a humane treatment toward them.
4. Experience the pride of working with a horse, pony or mule and being responsible for its management and welfare.
5. Develop an appreciation for horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
6. Enhance their horsemanship skills and knowledge as well as understanding the business of breeding, raising and training horses, ponies and/or mules.
7. Increase their knowledge of basic safety precautions in order to prevent injury to themselves, their horse and others.

This handbook provides a uniform set of rules and regulations which are intended to generate positive youth development as well as standardize the shows which are qualifying events for the State 4-H Horse Show. It is suggested that these rules be used as a guide for county programs. However, if certain rules prohibit the involvement of a young person in a local program, then they will not apply at the local level. Youth should be reminded that these rules apply at all district and state 4-H horse events.

The State 4-H Horse program endorses the philosophy that attending the State 4-H Horse Show is a privilege, not a right. The big picture of the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program needs to remain focused on the educational needs of the youth. Participation at the state level should be for those who have demonstrated certain proficiencies and capabilities, as determined by the qualifying system in place. The privilege of competing at state should be extended to those who have challenged themselves to perform at a high level, not just show up.

For any rule not specified in this 4-H Rulebook, divisions should follow the respective breed or show association rule.

- The Western Judged and Speed Events divisions will follow rules set forth by the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA).

- The Saddleseat (Trotting) and Hunter division will follow rules set forth by the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF).
- The Miniature division will follow rules set forth by the American Miniature Horse Association (AMHA).
- The Walking/Racking/Mountain division will follow rules set forth by this Kentucky 4-H Rulebook. All Walking and Racking horses will be inspected according to the HPA rules.
- The Equestrian with Disabilities Open Invitational Showmanship class will follow rules set forth by the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA).

Once the 4-H State Horse Show Rulebook has been published, no rules will be changed. The latest date for a rule to be changed to follow a national or show association rules will be **March 15<sup>th</sup>** of each year. If a national association changes their rules after **March 15<sup>th</sup>** of each year, these rules will only take effect for the Kentucky 4-H State Horse Show the following year.

## **Section 2 – Eligibility and Participation**

### **1. Person**

#### *A. Educational Hours*

Youth must meet membership requirements established by the 4-H program. As of 2010, Youth must have completed a minimum of six (6) educational hours by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to be able to participate in any Kentucky 4-H Horse Program District or State Contest or Show.

Both the county extension agent and the 4-H club leader must approve and verify the membership of the 4-H'er as well as completion of the educational hours. Falsification of any information will result in the suspension of the 4-H member and/or leader from participating in the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program for a period as determined appropriate

#### *B. Age*

The 4-H age of all contestants is the age as of January 1 of the current year. A 4-H youth must be 9-18 years of age on January 1 to be a member of the current year.

#### *C. Age Divisions*

Age groups for all divisions are defined as:

Juniors	9 - 13 years-old
Seniors	14 - 18 years-old

#### *D. Class Entries and Showmanship Requirement*

At the 4-H State Show, each horse/rider/division combination may enter a maximum of **five (5)** classes in addition to as many open invitational classes as they wish per division. The **five (5)** classes are to include **one (1) showmanship** class and up to **four (4) performance** classes. Each horse/rider combination may enter a maximum of two divisions. 4-H'ers may show their project horses in the same division as long as they meet eligibility requirements. The 4-H'er may only show multiple horses per class as long as the class is a pattern class, with an individual order of go. A person may not enter more than one horse in a rail class.

All entries in all divisions (judged and timed classes) must show in showmanship. If there is a reason a horse must be scratched from the showmanship class, the 4-H'er must notify either show management or the crowd's nest of the scratch with the intent to participate in the remaining classes as well as present the horse to show management without tack for lameness and body condition scoring.

#### *E. State Show Qualifying*

Participants are required to gain 6 hours of education in the specific program area that is approved by the Certified Volunteer Leader and County Agent, as well as exhibit at a recognized horse show or attend a 4-H camp or clinic, with the horse he or she intends to show at the State 4-H Horse Show.

Recognized horse shows include Breed and Discipline Sanctioned Shows, as well as 4-H County Shows, 4-H Fun Shows, Open Shows and Schooling shows. For qualification purposes, the 4-H'er will be required to have a form signed by the Show Secretary/Superintendent/Show Manager/Camp or Clinic Organizer, verifying that the 4-H'er participated with same horse that they intend to compete with at the State 4-H Horse Show. The 4-H'er must attend the Show, Camp, or Clinic during the period of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>.

4-H'ers will still need to submit an online Eligibility Form along with photographs of their project horse(s). These forms will be due on May 15<sup>th</sup> along with the completion of the 6 hours of education.

#### F. *Walk/Trot(Jog) Eligibility*

A 4-H'er in the Junior (age 9-13) division may participate in Walk/Trot classes until he/she ages into Division II or once the 4-H'er enters a canter class, whichever occurs first. After they age out of Division I or enter a class that calls for a canter or a lope the 4-H'er may not enter a Walk/trot class again at the State 4-H Horse Show. A 4-H'er may not enter a walk/trot class and a canter class during the same State Horse Show. If the participant first shows at the Kentucky 4-H state show at the age of 12 or older the participant will only have one year to participate in walk/trot classes.

If a 4-H'er participates in a Walk/Trot class they will not be eligible for high point awards at that year's show.

#### G. *Back Numbers*

Back Numbers must be worn at all times when mounted, whether in the show ring or warm-up ring, during practice, riding to the show ring, etc. Back Numbers are required to be worn in each class. Failure to do so, or if the back number falls off during a class, the exhibitor will be disqualified.

## 2. Horse

### A. *Vaccination Requirement*

In an effort to protect all horses, due to the recent outbreaks of the neurologic form of herpesvirus, the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program has mandated that horses showing at district and state 4-H horse shows must be vaccinated against flu and rhino within 6 months of the show date. Proof of vaccination will need to be provided along with Coggins and Health Papers.

1. Horses entering the grounds must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within six months prior to entering the stables. Horses not in compliance with this rule may be required to leave the competition grounds upon request by Competition Management. Documentation should consist of one of the following methods mentioned below. The frequency of vaccine administration should be per the vaccine manufacturers' or veterinarian's recommendations. It is recommended that vaccines are administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian.
2. In the case of vaccines administered by a veterinarian, the exhibitor must provide documentation from the veterinarian on documenting that the horse in question received the vaccinations; name of the vaccines and date of vaccine administration.
3. In the case of vaccines administered by a person other than a veterinarian, the exhibitor must provide a receipt of the vaccine purchase which is signed by the owner, or agent with care, custody, and control of the horse; name, serial number and expiration date of the vaccine; and date of vaccine administration.
4. In the case of a horse that is unable to receive either of the vaccinations due to a history of adverse reactions, the exhibitor must provide a letter from the veterinarian on official letterhead stating that the horse in question cannot be vaccinated due to medical concerns and a log of temperatures taken twice daily for the seven days prior to entering the competition grounds. These horses must also have their temperature taken and logged twice daily while on the competition grounds. The log of temperatures should be provided to the Show Management when requested.

*Although none of the vaccines available currently claim to prevent against the neurologic form of the disease, studies have shown that some vaccines decrease viral shedding and produce higher antibody titers. The vaccines with the greatest ability to limit nasal shedding and viremia of the neuro virulent strain include the vaccines licensed for control of abortion (Pneumabort®-K & Prodigy®), and the MLV vaccine (Rhinomune® & Calvenza®).*

### *B. Project Horse Eligibility*

Each youth may enter multiple project horses. The youth is to declare their project horses by May 15<sup>th</sup> or earlier if indicated by the county agent or district horse contact agent through the online eligibility form. A separate eligibility form and show forms are to be turned in for each project horse. The youth must qualify each horse separately at a recognized show or clinic, as aforementioned. Each horse/rider combination is to be considered a separate entry.

The horses must be owned or leased and declared (completed Eligibility Form) as the 4-H member's 4-H project horses as of May 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year. Counties may establish lesser ownership time requirements for local participation. Youth will not be allowed to show a project horse at the state show without having declared the horse by the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Each horse/rider combination may enter in up to two divisions. If an exhibitor is riding a horse in two divisions each horse/rider/division combination is considered a separate entry. Division is referring to one of the six discipline divisions, a single horse may not be entered in more than one subdivision.

Example 1: An exhibitor may enter a horse in both the Hunter division and the Western Judged Division, however a horse may not be entered in both Western Pleasure subdivision and Ranch subdivision within the Western Judged Division.

Example 2: A 4-H'er has the ability to show a maximum of six horse/rider/division combinations if they were to declare three project horses, and show each horse in two divisions.

A rider may enter multiple horses in the same class only if the class is a pattern or individual test class and there is no component in the class description where all horses will be judged in the arena simultaneously.

At the state show the 4-H'er must provide a verification form for each horse they show, except for Open Invitational classes. If something deems a project horse unable to compete at the state show the 4-H'er may not substitute another horse if it has not been declared as a project horse.

### *C. Sharing horses:*

Two 4-H members may exhibit the same horse IF: 4-H'ers are siblings or receive prior approval from the State Equine Specialist for a special circumstance, both 4-H'ers must have a current eligibility form indicating the horse to be shown. In order to receive approval from the State Equine Specialist, reasons for youth sharing a horse must be presented in writing at least 3 weeks prior to the due date for eligibility forms, the Specialist will then give their response in writing to the individual and the agent. The Specialist's approval letter must accompany the entry forms to the state horse show.



#### *D. Open Invitational Classes*

A youth may enter additional horses to be shown in open invitational classes or may use their project horses. Horses only being shown in Open Invitational classes are not required to complete the Eligibility Form, however, in compliance with federal law, 4-H'ers still need to provide current proof of negative Coggins and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, as well as proof of Flu and EHV vaccine.

#### *E. Mules*

Mules are recognized in the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program when referencing the horse.

#### *F. Stallions*

Stallions (any uncastrated male) will not be permitted to show at either the district or the State 4-H Horse Show.

#### *G. Age of Horse*

Horses must be a minimum of 2 years old to be eligible to attend the areas, district, or State 4-H Horse Show, unless the class description denotes otherwise (for some miniature classes, horses must be at least 3 years old).

#### *H. Coggins and Health Certificate*

In order to enter any classes at a District or State 4-H Horse Show, youth must provide the following information, unless notified otherwise: **(1)** the horse/pony's negative Coggins Test Certificate taken within the past twelve (12) months & Certified Veterinary Inspection of Health (CVI) or within 30 days if CVI was issued outside the state of Kentucky; and **(2)** the youth's current, properly validated 4-H Horse Show Eligibility Form and Lease/Loan Declaration if appropriate. Each horse/pony's negative Coggins Test and CVI must be attached to the show entry form. If Coggins and/or CVI papers are due to expire during or before the State show, up to date Coggins and CVI papers must be provided at the State Show Office. If a valid Coggins Test and/or CVI papers are not produced, the horse/pony will not be allowed to show under any circumstances and will be sent home immediately. If the horses/ponies do not leave the grounds immediately, show management is **REQUIRED** to call the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Animal Health inspector and inform them of the presence of a horse/pony at the show without a valid Coggins Test and or CVI papers. ***No refunds will be made.***

## **Section 3- Safety**

### **1. Helmets**

The Kentucky 4-H Horse Program **REQUIRES** all 4-H'ers to wear protective headgear passing or surpassing current applicable **ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute)** standards with harness securely fastened and helmet properly fitted on top of the head while riding or driving during County, District and State 4-H Horse Program events and activities. This includes, but is not limited to: 4-H Horse Shows, 4-H Horsemanship Camps, 4-H Trail Rides, 4-H Horse Drill Teams, etc.

Any rider violating this rule at any time (no helmet, helmet flies off rider's head and hits the ground or hangs on the neck or becomes improperly positioned) will be immediately prohibited from further riding or driving and will be excused from the class.

Helmets must be properly fitted and positioned on the head, with the chin strap properly and securely fastened. If at any time the helmet comes out of position (tilted back, comes forward, covers face, tilts to the side, or any other manner in which the helmet was not intended to be worn) the rider will be disqualified from the class, asked to dismount, and leave the arena immediately. If the instance occurs during a speed class, the individual will be asked to stop their horse and proceed to exit the arena without continuing the pattern. Failure to acknowledge the request, or continuation of the pattern may result in a disqualification from the entire show.

It is the responsibility of the youth, or the parent or guardian of the youth participant to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use and is properly fitted and in good condition; and the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program, Show Committees, Officials, Judges, Extension Personnel and Volunteer Leaders are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance.

The Kentucky 4-H Horse Program makes no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about any protective headgear, and cautions riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear as all equestrian sports involve inherent dangerous risk and as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries.

The Kentucky 4-H Horse Program, Show Committees, Officials, Judges, Extension Personnel and Volunteer Leaders will bar 4-H'ers from participation in events and activities when riding or driving without protective headgear and may bar any 4-H'er or person from participating if not suitably attired.

## 2. Footwear

All 4-H'ers must wear proper riding footwear with a distinguishable heel while mounted.

Closed toed shoes are required when leading or handling horses.

## 3. Equipment

All tack and equipment must be in good, safe condition, and must be attached and/or held together by either buckles or appropriate, safe attachments, i.e. NO duct tape, Velcro fasteners, baling twine, etc.

## 4. Unruly Horses

Unruly horses will be excused from the show arena at any time the Judge or Show Management consider the safety of the youth, or other persons and/or horses are in danger.

## **Section 4- Animal Welfare**

### **1. Performance Enhancing Drugs**

Horses/ponies/mules suspected of being under the influence of any performance altering drug, chemical, caustic agent, or foreign substance which would alter their natural performance will be disqualified from the show and any future 4-H events for the rest of that year. Examples of performance altering drugs include stimulants, tranquilizers, painkillers, etc. All prizes and money will also be forfeited if a horse/pony/mule is suspected of being illegally drugged. Any horse/pony is subject to drug-testing, and the exhibitor will be responsible for any drug testing fees.

### **2. Lameness**

In the State Show, if a horse is deemed lame by the judge, lameness steward (includes DQP), or the Horse Specialist, it will be disqualified from that class and the subsequent classes it has not shown yet. For example, in the District Shows, if a horse is deemed lame by the aforementioned officials, it will be disqualified from that class and the subsequent classes it has not shown yet. If that horse has shown earlier and qualified for the State Show in those particular classes, it can still show at the State Show in the classes it has qualified. However, the horse will not be able to show in any other remaining classes after it has been declared lame by any of the aforementioned officials. Showmanship classes will require a two-beat element.

Horses performing in jumping classes (except cross rails classes) and in reining will be required to trot out of the arena. In the district shows, other classes in which horses are not required to trot or perform a two-beat gait, all exhibitors that may receive a blue or a red Danish ribbon will be required to trot the horse in hand for the judge at the end of the class. This will be done before ribbon distribution. If a horse is deemed lame then, it will be disqualified.

### **3. Open Wounds**

Horses/ponies/mules having granulated tissue, raw or bleeding sores from old or new scars due to prior mistreatment will be disqualified. All exhibitors will comply with the guidelines stated in the Horse Protection Act of 1970 and any modifications or revisions of the Act since December 9, 1970.

Any horse with open or bleeding wounds may be asked to leave a class according to the Judge or Show Management's discretion. Depending on the severity of the wound the horse may or may not be allowed to continue to participate in subsequent classes. If a wound is noticed during a drill team competition the Judge or Show Management holds the power to suspend the performance and remove the wounded/lame horse if deemed necessary. The rest of the team will have an option to start at the beginning or from the point of the stoppage once the horse is removed.

### **4. Body Condition Scoring**

Because of animal welfare concerns and the image that 4-H wants to present to the public,

horses, ponies and/or mules with a body condition score of less than a 4 (ribs easily discernible, tops of spinous process easily discernible, tailhead prominent with hook bones easily discernible, withers accentuated, and neck obviously thin) shall not be allowed at 4-H horse shows or at any 4-H horse program activities, including Horse Camps, and District and State shows. The show manager, and designated person in charge of body condition scoring, and/or the judge can dismiss a horse from any 4-H Horse sponsored activities for these reasons.

## **Section 5- Show Procedures**

### **1. Disciplines**

The State 4-H Horse Show will be divided into the following seven (7) divisions:

WALKING/RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE DIVISION

SADDLESEAT (TROTting) HORSE DIVISION

MINIATURE HORSE DIVISION

HUNTER HORSE DIVISION

SPEED EVENTS DIVISION

WESTERN JUDGED HORSE DIVISION

EQUESTRIANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

DRILL TEAM

### **2. Show Management**

The term show management refers to the State Equine Specialist, Associate, Agents, plus current show secretary, ring steward, or other appointed officials.

#### *A. Low Class Entries*

Classes offered for the District and State 4-H Horse Shows are subject to evaluation. If a class at the State 4-H Horse Show falls below an average of three (3) entries over a three (3) year period then the class can be eliminated from the show.

#### *B. Placings*

At the State Horse Show the top ten (10) horses/ponies in each class will be placed in order and all class participants will receive a Danish Ribbon.

In any class with more than 10 participants, those not in the top 10 shall be excused before placings are announced.

#### *C. Dividing Large Classes*

For safety reasons, the show superintendent may divide a class that has too many entries into preliminary sections (heats), and a subsequent final. However, if the number brought back from a preliminary to a final is more than 10, then there should be 12 or more, never 11.

#### *D. Patterns*

Any class that requires a pattern, i.e. showmanship, horsemanship or equitation classes, will have

the pattern posted at least one (1) hour prior to the start of the class near the arena in which the class is to be held. Patterns for any jump classes may be posted after the practice session near the arena which the class is to be held, but at least one hour before the start of class.

#### *E. Jump Schooling*

A specified time for jump schooling will be permitted either the night before or the day that over fences classes are to be held.

F. The judge's decision is final.

### 3. Rule Changes and Recommendations

Participants, agents, volunteers, and parents are welcome and invited to submit rule change recommendations to their county agents. These recommendations will be discussed by the Extension Specialist, Associate, Area Horse Contact Agents, and other stakeholders, and a decision will be made and rules will be updated accordingly.

### 4. Measurements

#### *a. Measurement of Miniature Horses:*

All Miniature horses exhibited at the State 4-H Horse Show must be measured by the Official Measuring Committee prior to showing in any classes, unless they have a permanent measurement card. If the horse has a permanent card, the exhibitor must present card and horse to the measuring committee. Ample time will be allowed on or the day before and the day of classes are scheduled for measuring to take place. Youth will have their back numbers stamped following the measurement of their Miniature horse. It is the responsibility of the youth and/or the youth's leader, parent(s) or agent to provide any necessary restraint during the measurement process. The following procedures will be followed during measurements:

- An approved measurement stick is a straight, stiff, unbendable stick that is equipped with a plumb bob or spirit level to make sure the standard is perpendicular to the ground and that the cross-piece or arm is parallel with the ground surface.
- The measurement surface must be level and under no circumstances should measuring take place on dirt or gravel.
- Miniature horses should stand squarely on all four feet in such a position that the front legs are vertical to the ground and the back of the hocks are in a vertical line with the point of the quarters. The poll must be in the same horizontal plane as the withers and not lower, and the head should be in a normal position.
- A maximum of two handlers may present Miniature horses for measurement.
- Handlers must not interfere in any way that will prevent the Miniature horse from standing in the correct position.
- Handlers may not have any direct physical contact with the Miniature horse in a way that could influence the measurement, except that a handler may cover the eye.
- Miniature horses must be presented without shoes.

- Miniature horses are measured from the ground to the last hair of the mane.

b. *Measurement of Ponies for Speed Events:*

All ponies that compete in only-for-pony classes at the State 4-H Horse Show must be measured by the Official Measuring Committee prior to showing. Ample time will be allowed on or the day before and the day of classes are scheduled for measuring to take place. Youth will have their back numbers stamped following the measurement of their ponies. It is the responsibility of the youth and/or the youth's leader, parent(s) or agent to provide any necessary restraint during the measurement process. The following procedures will be followed during measurements:

- An approved measurement stick is a straight, stiff, unbendable stick that is equipped with a plumb bob or spirit level to make sure the standard is perpendicular to the ground and that the cross-piece or arm is parallel with the ground surface.
- The measurement surface must be level and under no circumstances should measuring take place on dirt or gravel.
- Ponies should stand squarely on all four feet in such a position that the front legs are vertical to the ground and the back of the hocks are in a vertical line with the point of the quarters. The poll must be in the same horizontal plane as the withers and not lower, and the head should be in a normal position.
- A maximum of two handlers may present ponies for measurement.
- Handlers must not interfere in any way that will prevent the pony from standing in the correct position.
- Handlers may not have any direct physical contact with the pony in a way that could influence the measurement, except that a handler may cover the eye.
- Ponies may be presented with or without shoes.
- Ponies are measured from the ground to the highest point of the withers.
- Ponies must measure 14 hands and below for Speed Events

## 5. High Point Awards

At the State Horse Show an award will be given to the high point youth in each of the Walking/Racking/Mountain, Miniature, Hunter, Western, Speed Events, and Saddleseat categories.

All entries in all divisions (judged and timed classes) must show in showmanship.

An entry into a Walk/Trot class makes that particular rider ineligible for High Point Awards.

Points leading to the high point and reserve high point awards, district or county awards will be accumulated in showmanship and performance classes only. No points will be awarded in open invitational classes or walk/trot classes. Point totals will result from the sum of the highest four classes. The class with the lowest point total will be dropped from the high point calculation.

Number of Contestants in class	Points for Placing									
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1	1									
2	2	1								
3	3	2	1							
4	4	3	2	1						
5	5	4	3	2	1					
6	6	5	4	3	2	1				
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
9	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
10 & over	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

In all classes except for the Speed Events Division, points are awarded according to the number of youth actually showing in the class. If a youth is disqualified from a class, that youth will receive no points and/or premium for that class regardless of the number of entries in the class. The disqualified youth will still be counted as a participant in the class for purposes of calculating the remaining youth's points.

In the **Speed Events Division**, high points will not be awarded according to number of entries in the class, but instead on a time basis. Regardless of placing or number of entries, the points will be awarded to the ten fastest times within the two age divisions when times are combined from both pony and horse classes. Therefore, riders in the pony and horse divisions are eligible for high point awards based on the 10 fastest times for the pattern in each age group. Each class will still give out placing ribbons for 1<sup>st</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>.

Example: The 1<sup>st</sup> place finisher for pony barrels wins with a time of 16.5 sec. A time of 16.5 sec is the third fastest time of the day for the barrels pattern in both horse and pony classes for that particular age division, thus the pony ride will receive 8 points for the barrels classes.

If a tie exists for calculation of high point or reserve high point awards the following tie breaking system will be implemented in order: (1) greatest number of showmanship points earned, (2) greatest number of performance classes points earned (3) lowest numerical value for cumulative placings excluding any open invitational class. If after 3 tie breakers, a tie continues to exist, both participants will be awarded.



## 6. Grounds for disqualification

### *c. Project horses may only be ridden by 4-H'ers*

County, district and state 4-H horse shows are events established for participation of individual 4-H members and their horses/ponies. Only 4-H members can ride their project horses during the show and on show grounds. This means that parents, trainers, and any other adults or other 4-H'ers are NOT allowed to school (riding or driving) horses at the District and/or State 4-H Horse Show. Only 4-H'ers should be riding and/or schooling their own project horse. If the 4-H'er's horse is seen being schooled or ridden by anyone but the 4-H'er, show management should be informed immediately and the **4-H'er will be at risk for disqualification.** Lunging should also be done by the 4-H'er, unless for safety reasons, an adult can assist with lunging. If assistance is required to lunge a horse, the 4-H'er must be present at all times.

### *d. No coaching during competition*

There will be no coaching or assistance to the 4-H member and his or her horse/pony while the 4-H member is competing in the ring, under penalty of elimination at the discretion of the judge and/or 4-H Horse Show Management.

In instances where obvious coaching, or horse and/or rider cueing occurs, that participant may be disqualified for that class by show management. Examples of verbal cues such as "hey", "lift", "set", "kick", "whip" or other abrupt commands/cues from anyone other than the rider can be considered coaching. Cheering is allowed.

### *e. Unsportsmanlike Conduct*

The decision of the judge(s) will be final in all cases. When a youth, parent, legal guardian, leader and/or agent are guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, the show superintendent, or Horse Specialist may suspend the youth's rights to participate in future classes and/or 4-H horse shows. At District and County shows the authority is given to the supervising agents should a situation arise.

### *f. Cast Shoe During Class*

If a horse/pony casts a shoe during a class, the youth will have seven (7) minutes from the time the farrier enters the arena to have that shoe replaced. If at the end of the seven (7) minute period the youth is not ready to resume the class, the youth will be excused from the arena.

### *g. Fall During Equitation or Horsemanship*

A fall by the rider in any equitation or horsemanship class from his or her horse will result in disqualification from that class.

h. *Horses must remain at the Fair Grounds while competing*

4-H horses exhibited at the State 4-H Horse Show are not to leave the Kentucky State Fair Grounds until their classes are completed. If horses are transported off the grounds during the course of their particular show/division they may not return and will be disqualified.

i. *Approaching the judge*

No Judge may be approached by an exhibitor, parent, Extension Agent or 4-H Leader without first obtaining permission of the Show Management. Those that do without consent are subject to disqualification and/or being excused from the remainder of the event.

j. *Falsification of Documents*

The falsification of any documents pertaining to the 4-H'er and/or the horse will result in disqualification and a suspension from the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program for a period as determined appropriate.

k. *Continuation of pattern or failure to exit arena*

Failure to comply with the request of the judge to exit the arena, or the continuation of the pattern after being excused may result in a disqualification from the entire show.

## **Section 6- Horse Management Expectations**

### **HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR HORSE DURING A SHOW**

#### Water

All horses/ponies should have a minimum of one five-gallon bucket mounted in their stalls. Each bucket should be full of clean, fresh water. Special attention should be paid to those horses/ponies that drop feed or hay into their buckets, as those buckets will need to be emptied and refilled to ensure that the horses/ponies have clean, fresh water at all times. No water buckets should ever be left sitting on the ground, as horses may overturn them, spilling all of their water, and possibly be injured by the bucket. Remember, water is THE MOST IMPORTANT nutrient for your horse/pony, especially in the summer. Please make a concentrated effort to provide your horse/pony with plenty of it.

#### Hay

Horses should have hay available at all times to diminish the chances of GI upset and colic, especially when away from home.

#### Stalls

##### Bedding:

All stalls should be properly bedded with either shavings or straw. In general, none of the stall flooring should be visible, and there should be enough to cover the floor even after the stall is picked repeatedly. Each stall should be picked several times a day to remove soiled bedding and uneaten hay.

##### Safety:

Since the horse/pony spends a great deal of time in the stall, it is imperative that all hazards should be removed. Before putting a horse/pony in a stall, check to ensure that it is free from nails, broken boards, protruding objects, holes, etc. Make sure the door works properly and the metal bars are intact. If there are tailboards in the stall, consider taping the edges and corners. No horse/pony should be kept in a stall with tailboards that have jagged edges or splintered wood. When mounting fans, keep all wires out of the reach of horses/ponies. Stapling or nailing the cords in place on the outside of the stall is an effective way to do this. Fans should be placed in such a way that horses/ponies benefit from the breeze but are unable to grab the fan with their lips or teeth. Halters and lead ropes should be accessible for every horse/pony (in case of an emergency). They may either be hung on the stall door or left on the horse/pony. Halters left on horses/ponies should be properly fitted, with no loose parts that may become hooked on any part of the stall.

##### Stall cards:

All horse/pony stalls should have a stall card telling the horse/pony's name, exhibitor's name, contact information during the competition, owner's name and phone number, feed rations (in case someone else needs to feed for you), and an adult contact information during the

competition. Every stall card should have an emergency contact that will be responsible for making immediate decisions in case of injury or illness to the horse/pony or an evacuation situation.

#### Horse & Pony Appearance:

Horses/ponies should be comfortable, and overall healthy and clean. It is understood that horses/ponies may be nervous and will most certainly be hot, but the exhibitors should be deliberate in their care of the horses/ponies.

Horses/ponies should be groomed after riding and hosed down if they have sweated a lot.

Horses/ponies that are prone to sweating profusely may need to be hosed down for the sheer sake of regulating their temperature to prevent heat-related problems. Regular grooming and feet picking is also expected, as it is a mark of good horsemanship. Happy horses/ponies are those that have plenty of water and hay available and are able to make themselves comfortable.

Horses/ponies should never be tied in their stalls without access to water. In general, the practice of tying horses/ponies for long periods is discouraged, especially if there are no people in the barn area to supervise. In addition, horses/ponies should be cross-tied safely, and never left unattended. Horses/ponies should not be tied within reach of other horses/ponies so as not to risk injury due to kicking or biting.

#### Equipment Areas

##### Storage:

Feed, hay, tack, grooming supplies and tools should be stored away and not dispersed in the aisle way. Extra bedding and hay should be kept in one area that is not cluttering the aisles. Grain should be kept in tightly sealed containers.

##### Organization:

Equipment should be accessible to everyone but horses/ponies; doors should be kept closed, the overall area should be neat, with things picked up and arranged in a logical order and free from clutter.

#### Barn

##### Appearance:

Aisles should be clear and clean, without chairs, tools, grooming supplies, coolers, etc. obstructing the walkway or stalls. Further, hair clippings, hoof debris, manure, hay, etc. should be raked up and thrown away. Should you choose to decorate the barn, the barn decorations should have a consistent theme as chosen by the club and should not interfere with the functional operation of the barn. Stable management is first and foremost about horse care, not decorations.

### Safety:

You should have a first aid kit, fire extinguisher, flashlight and jack knife that are visible and accessible (not locked in a stall). Though these items may not need to be employed, the value of having them on hand in case of an emergency is inexpressible.

### Organization:

In order to run a successful barn, it is important for there to be good communication among the caretakers and clearly defined tasks that allow for the smooth operation of the facility. A set of stable rules should be posted to alert people to the expectations of behavior and safety regulations. A schedule of chores will ensure that the management practices outlined above will be carried out for the benefit of the horses/ponies, which is the main concern of any horse/pony facility. Additionally, the name and contact number of the club leader or responsible party should be posted so that any problems or concerns may be quickly brought to their attention and addressed appropriately.

### 4-H'er Participation

The goal of the 4-H program is to encourage active learning among youth, so it is vital that the 4H members be responsible for themselves and their horses/ponies. All 4-H'ers should be involved in the care of their horses/ponies, including feeding, watering, grooming, cleaning stalls and tack, exercising, etc. Points will be quickly deducted if parents or other adults are observed caring for horses/ponies instead of the 4-H'ers. Minimal assistance is acceptable, but the bulk of the work is to be done solely by the 4-H'er.

## **Section 7 Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships**

The Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships rotate to one of the thirteen states that make up the southern region (Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky. This event takes place the end of July/first of August each year.

Each state can send 60 horses/ponies and riders to this event in addition to two (2) individuals or teams in the Horse Contests events outlined in the Leaders' Guide.

Horse Showing Qualification for this event will be evaluated in the following order:

1. The 4-H'er who wants to show his/her horse at the Southern Regionals 4-H Horse Championships must have received 50% or more of Blue or Red Danish Ribbons at the State Show classes he/she participated in.
2. Each member can only take the horse or horses that participated in the Kentucky 4-H State Show on the same year. 1) 4-H'ers must qualify and compete at the KY State 4-H Horse Show the same year they attend Southern Regionals.

Entries for the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships can only be made through the State 4-H Horse Office. Entry information will be available at the KY State 4-H Horse Show each year. Consult the KY 4-H Horse Program web site for the year's schedule and current information.

**Southern Regionals 4-H Horse Championships**  
**Kentucky Delegation Application**

**Qualifying Process:**

1/ The 4-H'er who wants to show his/her horse at the Southern Regionals 4-H Horse Championships must have received 50% or more of Blue or Red Danish Ribbons at the State Show classes he/she participated in.

2/ Each member can only take the horse or horses that participated in the Kentucky 4-H State Show on the same year.

4-H'er name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number while in Georgia: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate of 4-H'er: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Division: \_\_\_\_\_

BCS at the Kentucky 4-H State Show: \_\_\_\_\_

Classes Shown at the Kentucky 4-H State Show:	Placing	Danish Ribbon
1/ _____	_____	_____
2/ _____	_____	_____
3/ _____	_____	_____
4/ _____	_____	_____
5/ _____	_____	_____

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H'er Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

This form and SR  
Entry forms  
MUST be turned  
in by the end of  
the state show.