



El Dorado County 4-H Youth Development Program Horse Project Participation Requirements

The objective of a horse project is to allow 4-H members to learn the skills of feeding, management, care, and horsemanship skills. Through this experience they also learn the skills of decision-making, information gathering, communication, responsibility, and self-confidence. The following rules cover regularly scheduled county-rides, project rides, project meetings, 4-H clinics El Dorado County 4-H horse shows and any other 4-H horse event. Unwillingness of a project member, parent/guardian, and/or family member to abide by rules is basis for the 4-H member and family being asked to leave, suspension of arena riding privileges, and/or removal from the project.

Membership:

1. The Horse project is open to 4-H members in good standing between the ages of 9 years old by December 31st of the program year until December 31st of the calendar year in which they become 19 years of age. The age categories are: Junior (9-10 years old), Intermediate (11-13 years old), Senior (14-19 year old).
2. As outlined in the California 4-H Project List the horse project is not approved as appropriate for 4-H Primary (5-8 years old) members and CANNOT participate in any 4-H activity where horses are present. However, Primary members are eligible for the Horseless Horse Project (If available).
3. To be considered a Horse project member, youth must enroll in a horse project in 4HOnline.

Project Animal

1. A project animal is considered to be the horse or pony that is cared for by the 4-H member. A Pony is considered any breed under 14.2 hands. A pony youth rider may be any age.
2. Horses – must be owned/leased and supervised for not less than 120 consecutive days. Male foals may be shown by 4-H members, but yearling and older stallions are ineligible as 4-H projects. The age of the horse shall be computed on the basis of a calendar year starting on January 1 of the year foaled; it is a weanling during the calendar year in which foaled, and a yearling during the first calendar year following its foaling date, regardless of year foaled.
3. An “owned” horse is any horse that is owned by the 4-H member or his/her immediate family (parents, siblings, guardians). Horses owned by distant family—aunts, uncles, cousins or grandparents—are considered leased horses.
4. A “Leased” horse is any horse that is not owned by the 4-H member or his/her immediate family (parents, siblings, guardians). Horses owned by distant family—aunts, uncles, cousins or grandparents—are considered leased horses.
5. Members with leased horses and/or ponies must submit a 4-H Horse Lease form to the County 4-H Office. The form must be received within 120 days from any qualifying horse show for the 4-H Horse Classic, El Dorado County Fair’s Horse Show, and/or California State Fair. Failure to submit the form will result in the lease horse being ineligible to be used in shows.
6. Family members may share a horse, but each member must show the horse in a different division. Divisions are classified by riding seat (i.e. English, Western, Gymkhana). Only one member may show the horse in Showmanship.
7. Members are to do their own work (i.e. grooming, tacking, lunging, riding, training, feeding, watering, clean-up, etc.) Unless there is a safety problem. Members may be assisted by another 4-H horse project member or leader.

Equestrian Helmets

1. All members and adult volunteers, regardless of riding seat, shall wear a properly fitted equestrian helmet which meets ASTM/SEI standards (information about the importance of ASTM/SEI standards can be found at <http://animalscience.uconn.edu/equine/helmetSafety/index.htm>.) with



secured chin harness properly fastened at all times when mounted on a horse or in a vehicle being pulled by one or more horses as part of any 4-H YDP equestrian activity.

2. A helmet must be worn by all youth while in the Arena.
3. It is recommended that a helmet be worn at all times when handling any horse (i.e., grooming, clipping).
4. It is the responsibility of the rider or the rider's parent/guardian to see to it that the headgear worn complies with such approval standards and carries the proper seals, and is properly fitted and in good condition. 4-H YDP staff and adult volunteers are not responsible for checking headgear for compliance. UC makes no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about such headgear and cautions riders that serious injury may result despite wearing headgear, as no helmet can protect against all unforeseeable injuries in equestrian sports.

Appropriate Attire Recommendations:

1. English Attire: Hunt or Saddle seat coat, shirt, breeches or jodhpurs, boots and ASTM/SEI helmet.
2. Western Attire: Long-sleeve western shirt, pants or jeans, belt, tie, and ASTM/SEI helmet.
3. Showmanship: 4-H Uniform, English or Western attire.
4. 4-H Uniform is appropriate for all events.
5. Silver and/or professional show clothes (i.e. chaps) will not count over good, working equipment.
6. Advertising of any form on the clothing worn is not permissible.
7. In the showmanship classes, the ASTM/SEI helmet is not required but is recommended by state 4-H policy.

Animal Welfare

1. Animals must be serviceably sound.
2. All animals are to be current on shots and worming. No animal shall be admitted or allowed to remain on grounds showing any evidence of communicable disease. Member will be asked to remove said horse immediately.
3. Standard and humane equipment is to be used. Decisions will be made by Horse Resource Leader and County Leaders prior to an event.
4. Any abuse of an animal, unethical treatment or violations of regulations by a member shall be referred to the County Director for disciplinary action and possible expulsion from the project.

Safety Rules:

1. NO riding in or out of the arena may take place until a Horse Leader is present.
2. Horse Leaders MUST have a current signed Treatment Authorization and Health History Form (v. 2016-2017) and a signed code of conduct for each member at all rides and events.
3. Members are to be under direct supervision of a horse leader at all times. Any horse leader may give directions to any member at any time to ensure that safe conduct is being practiced and rules are being followed.
4. Only 4-H Horse Project members are allowed to ride during project meetings.
5. Adults (i.e. 4-H leaders, trainers, or parents) will NOT be allowed to ride a member's project horse or any other horse at any 4-H horse show.
6. NO double riding.
7. Horse and/or ponies must be under control at all times.
8. If your horse has been known to kick, please place a red ribbon in your horse's tail to warn other riders. A leader may also recommend a member to place a ribbon in tail as well.
9. Horses must be tied with halter and lead rope ONLY. Horses may be tied to a trailer, only if it is hooked to a vehicle. DO NOT tie horses to arena fence, grandstands, cattle chute, or in any other unsafe manner.



10. NO rough housing, racing, running, playing with balls/toys, Frisbees, rollerblades, bicycles, loud music, etc. will be allowed in the areas or adjacent areas in which horse event is being held.
11. Dogs and other pets are not allowed at 4-H project meeting, rides or horse shows.
12. If there is an emergency in the arena (I.e. a loose horse or rider down) someone will call: STOP, HALT, or HOLD HARD. Riders are to stop their horses and stay where they are.
13. Members must clean up after themselves and their horses. This includes manure, hay, etc. before leaving facility.

Riding Etiquette

1. Do not cut off other riders; look before making turns.
2. All horses should be kept moving in same direction.
3. If you are having problems with your horse, ride to center of arena. Stand until excused, the horse show class is over, or until someone assists you.

El Dorado County Fairgrounds Facilities

1. Park in designated areas and do not block gates- Do not park on pavement (unless directed to park there during winter months).
2. Keep horses OFF grass, race-track/Grandstand area, and the “hill” in the over flow trailer parking. Horses MUST be kept in the Henningson Arena area and may NOT walk through fairgrounds.
3. Keep horses OFF of pavement unless directed due to rain/mud, etc.

Additional 4-H Policies

1. Coverage under the 4-H accident/illness insurance program and protection under UC’s liability program will not be extended to include competitive showmanship classes.
2. UC does not provide liability coverage for injury or damage caused by animals.

4-H Code of Conduct

1. Behavior guidelines and expectations have been designed to make everyone’s experience at 4-H events satisfying to all attending. This means that all participants, members, adult volunteers and 4-H YDP staff, shall adhere to the core values of the University of California 4-H YDP and respect the individual rights, safety and property of others. See [2016-2017 Member Code of Conduct - English - pdf](#), [2016-2017 Parent-Guardian-Adult Participant Code of Conduct - English – pdf](#), and [2016-2017 Parent-Guardian-Adult Participant Code of Conduct - English – pdf](#).
2. Infractions of the 4-H Code of Conduct must be reported promptly by anyone observing them to the adult volunteer or staff in charge of the delegation/project and to the person in charge of the event who will bear final responsibility for disciplinary action.

Participating at the El Dorado County Fair

1. All **returning 4-H members**, must enroll by **October 15th**. All **new members**, must enroll by **December 1st**
2. Youth **must attend 80%** of all monthly **community club** meetings (returning member start counting from the beginning of the new program year; new members start counting participation from the date they enroll).
3. Youth **must attend 80%** of all **project** meetings from the time they enroll for the project(s) they are entering.
4. Youth must have a **written 4-H record** ([Annual Project Report](#)) for each project, to provide proof of supervision, the length of the project, attendance at meetings, and work completed in the project up-to-date.
5. The **4-H record must be submitted** to the respective project leader and community club leader. Leaders will review the record and sign to signify satisfactory completion of the project.



6. Youth must fill out the proper fair entry forms, collect the required club and/or project leader signatures, and submit them to the fair office by the deadline stated in the fair premium book.
7. Youth must abide by the rules governing participation at the El Dorado County Fair and/or other qualifying fairs as stated in the respective premium books, the 2017 State Rules for California Fairs, and CDEA's Agreement Between 4-H Youth Development Program, Future Farmers of America, and Grange.

Participation at the California 4-H Horse Classic

1. Contestants must have won a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in the same class at a State Classic Qualifying Show to be eligible to enter the California 4-H Horse Classic Show.
2. All County Fair, District Fair, Regional Fair, Citrus Fair and State Fair 4-H Horse Shows qualify for this Championship show. In addition, shows designated by the County Youth Advisor and/or County Horse Resource Leader will also qualify.
3. Each county may have a maximum of 3 qualifying shows. A list of qualifying shows can be found online at the California 4-H Horse Classic website.
4. The horse shown must be the member's project at least 120 days prior to the qualifying show but need not be owned by or registered to the exhibitor (i.e., leasing of horses is acceptable).

California 4-H Horse Classic website: http://4h.ucanr.edu/4-H_Events/Horse_Classic/

Participation at the California State Fair

1. Contestants must have won a 1st or 2nd place at the El Dorado County Fair Horse Show to be eligible to enter the California State Fair.
2. Rules for