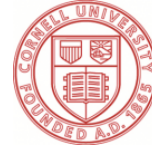




# Showing Your Horse in 4-H



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension

## How to prepare:

- Veterinary & Show Requirements
  - Original Rabies Certificate and Coggins papers are required. A copy of both the Rabies Certificate and the Coggins papers must be turned in to the office by June 1st as well as carried with the animal when showing.
  - All equines must be at least 24 months of age. No stallions or jacks are allowed.
  - All equines shown in ridden and driven classes must be 3 years of age or older.
  - All equines must have been officially designated as the member's project animal by June 1 of the current year. A copy of the completed Equine or Donkey/ Mule Animal Project Certificate must be on file with your County Cooperative Extension office.
  - Members not owning or not using a family owned equine may designate two non-owned equines as their project animals (Animal Project Certificates), but can only show one.
  - If a 4-Her owns two equines they may show both of the horses but not in the same division (Huntseat, Western, Dressage, Gymkhana, Saddleseat, Miniature Equine, and Driving).
  - For all Divisions, ponies = 14.2 hands or less.
  - Cloverbud riders: youth aged 5-8 (4-H age)
  - Junior riders: youth aged 8-13 (4-H age)
  - Senior riders: youth aged 14-18 (4-H age)

## What to wear:

- Proper equestrian footwear with a distinguishable heel is required.
- Choose clothing that is clean, in good repair and is suitable to your horse and your discipline.
- An approved helmet shall be worn at all times that a rider is mounted on an equine, sitting in a cart or handling an equine in a riding arena (whether on the ground, mounted or seated in a cart) at a 4-H sponsored clinic or show.
- Chaps are optional.
- Clip on spurs are prohibited.

## What to know for your showmanship class:

- Any 4-H member who exhibits in a 4-H division at a horse show must show in a Fitting & Showmanship class at that show.
- In Fitting & Showmanship classes, it is the exhibitor's efforts which are judged, not the breed, type or conformation of the horse.
- The condition and wellness of the horse is evaluated. Good condition is the result of proper care in feeding and exercise. It is determined by the condition of the coat, muscles and amount of flesh.
- Grooming not only cleans the horse and improves its appearance it is also the sign of a healthy horse. Like condition, it counts towards a competitor's score.
- A horse's coat should be clean, well brushed and in good condition. The bridle path and legs should be trimmed according to breed association regulations. Long hairs on the eyes, muzzle, and face should also be trimmed.
- The horse should lead, stop, turn, back and set up willingly, briskly and readily with minimal visible or audible cueing.

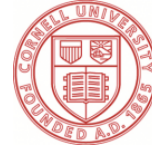
## Important dates:

- June 1st: Deadline to enroll in 4-H.  
June 15th: Deadline to submit 4-H Lease Horse Identification certificates.  
June 15th: Negative EIA test and Rabies Certificate Due for all horses.  
July 1st: Deadline to submit horse entry form.

For more information, contact Tamara Hill; [tlh233@cornell.edu](mailto:tlh233@cornell.edu); 315-379-9192 ext 261



# Showing Your Horse in 4-H



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## Necessary to Know when Showing

- All exhibitors must wear their numbers on their backs or on both sides of the equine on the saddle pad or on the vehicle seat for Driving Division at all times when mounted on the equine show grounds. Numbers must be clearly visible at all times.
- A fall in the arena for whatever reason will result in immediate disqualification. A fall will have occurred when an equine's shoulder touches the ground or when a rider comes in contact with the ground except as in the execution of a required and traditional dismount.
- Broken tack in a class will result in a disqualification from the class.
- Any equine not following the pattern required in any class, including the specified gaits, may be disqualified as specifically prescribed or, in the absence of specific guidelines, at the judge's discretion.
- The judge, ring master, division chair or equine show superintendent may dismiss from any class, the show or the grounds any exhibitor who is cruel and abusive of an equine, fails to follow or obey instruction, cannot maintain control of an unruly or inadequately trained equine, or fails to cooperate with show management or other exhibitors. A kicking equine shall be considered to be unmanageable.

## Rider Evaluations

- According to NYS Horse Program form approved by PW Wood, the following youth need to be evaluated:
  - Any youth who wishes to participate in 4-H sponsored mounted or driving events other than club activities.
  - Any youth who is riding or driving in the 4-H program for the first time.
  - Any youth that has been evaluated to ride safely in the Junior or Senior levels does not need to be re-evaluated unless there is a need to be re-evaluated.
  - A youth who wishes to move-up a level must be re-evaluated.
  - Youth do not have to be evaluated on each horse they may use as a project horse.
  - Riders can only compete at the level for which they have been evaluated.
  - Evaluations happen at a time and location established by the county CCE educator/staff member.