4-H Alberta Equine Project Standard

All 4-H Alberta members registered in the Equine projects must follow these project requirements as set out by 4-H Alberta in consultation with the 4-H Alberta Provincial Equine Advisory Committee and 4-H Alberta member requirements.

4-H Equine Project Minimum Requirements:

- A member must enrol in at least one (1) equine 4-H project and work on the mounted and dismounted skills assessments required for each level of that project before moving on to the next level.
- Appropriate records must be kept by the member for each animal from the date that the club determines to start and finish for a total of 180 days as per the 4-H Alberta equine record keeping guidelines.
- Members work at their own pace through the assessments in the project book. A level does not have to be completed in one year.
- A member must have completed Horsemanship Level 3 (as certified by their club leader), prior to registering in any of the offered equine project options (such as jumping, reining, ranch, young horse, green horse, etc.).
  Check below for more details on Non-Mounted Projects.
- A member must register the projects that will be worked on during the 4-H year by December 1. (Example: Horsemanship, Rodeo, Ranch, Dressage, etc.).
- 4-H members are expected to provide the major part of the feeding, care, and management for their animals. (Check with your 4-H club for clarification, exception and expectations)
  - In the event a 4-H member has two residences or is not able to complete the major part of the feeding, care and management due to means out of their control, the 4-H club will ensure that the "active role" is in realistic proportion to the time spent at that specific residence.

Cleaver Kids:

- Cleaver Kids are able to join equine 4-H clubs. Cleaver Kids are not enrolled in traditional equine 4-H projects and are not required to complete assessment levels.
- All Cleaver Kid activities involving horses must be under the supervision of the Cleaver Kids leader and be a stand alone. See Cleaver Kids requirements for more information.

4-H Equine Helmet Requirement:

A *certified, properly fitted, approved, non-expired**, and structurally sound equestrian helmet must be worn by:

- **All 4-H members, including Cleaver Kids**, while mounted.
- **All invited youth guests under 18 years of age** while mounted.
- **Leaders, instructors, and adult invited guest riders** while mounted. Helmet use is **strongly recommended** for adults.

*ALL equestrian helmets must be **certified** by: ASTM/SEI (American Society for Testing and Materials Safety Equipment Institute) or BSI (British Standards Institution)

**Equestrian helmets expire five years after purchase.

Project Identification:

- ❖ All 4-H equine project animals must be identified in their Project Record Book by December 1 of the current club year.
- ❖ 4-H members may be required to identify their project animal to the organizing committee prior to acceptance to the equine event beyond the club.

Project Animals:

- ❖ Equine project members can have only one equine project and one equine project animal until Horsemanship Level 3 mounted and dismounted are completed.
- ❖ Once the member has graduated beyond Horsemanship Levels 1-3, the member can have only one (1) animal per project option unless the project option has two components which require significantly different horse skills (i.e. speed events and roping in the Rodeo Project, English and western in Horsemanship).
- ❖ All members are to ride safe and suitable mounts for their skill level, leaders have the right to require project replacement if the project is deemed unsuitable or unsafe.
  Level 1-3 members although not recommended may be mounted on a young horse as their primary horsemanship project as long as it is deemed suitable and safe. If at any point a conflict arises due to the suitability or safeness of a mount the Leader or Parent / Member can request the Regions PEAC Representative to assess the situation or appoint a non-affiliated person with the club in question to assess the situation. The verdict reached by the "ASSESSOR" will be considered final for the remainder of that club year.
- ❖ Members or their immediate family are encouraged to own their project animal(s) or the member may borrow or lease project animal(s) utilizing a formal agreement which must be included in their animal's project record book.
- ❖ The use of stallions over one (1) year of age is prohibited. Stallions must be castrated without exception before January 1 of the club year.
  - ➢ Where testicles are not descended, members may present their yearling with an accompanying veterinarian certificate identifying this condition and the member assumes all risks and costs.

Replacing Equine Project Animal:

- A member's 4-H project animal may be replaced for any of the following reasons with clubs' approval:
  - If a member's animal is deemed unsuitable or unsafe.
  - Animal's medically unfit or long term unsoundness.
  - If a project animal dies.
- The member may be granted permission by the club to participate in their achievement day event with a substitute horse. The club may choose not to grant permission if a new animal is not deemed to be a suitable replacement.

Tranquilizers:

- The use of tranquilizers on 4-H project animals immediately proceeding or at any 4-H project events are prohibited. Any animal that is tranquilized cannot be shown at a 4-H event.
- Any participant or member of a participant's family can make a grievance to a committee member responsible for the show regarding suspected use of a tranquilizer. The committee must deal with the protest immediately by contacting a veterinarian who will inspect/test the animal. If the animal is deemed to be tranquilized, the member will be required to pay the veterinarian costs. If the animal is deemed to be not tranquilized, the individual who filed the grievance will pay the veterinarian costs incurred.

Core Welfare and Handling Standards

- **Humane Treatment:** Causing unnecessary pain, distress, or willful neglect is illegal under animal welfare statutes and the Criminal Code of Canada. [1]
- **National Guidelines:** Exhibitors must follow science-based guidelines such as the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle to ensure proper nutrition, shelter, and handling. [1, 2]
- **Daily Husbandry:** Animals require access to clean, cool water at all times, clean bedding, and protection from extreme heat using proper ventilation or cooling rooms. [1, 2]

4-H Events:

- Event organizers have the authority to remove dangerous, unsafe or unsound project animals from 4-H classes or events.
- Members are required to abide by event rules.
- You must use your registered 4-H project animal for which you have maintained a project record book during the current 4-H year to compete in any 4-H Equine event.

4-H Equine Projects:

- 4-H Equine projects can be mounted or non-mounted equine projects.
- 4-H Equine projects Riding Skills levels are defined by the assessments for each specific horsemanship or project option.
- 4-H Equine projects include:

Horsemanship Level 1-3 ❖ Horsemanship Level 4-7 ❖ Dressage ❖ Jumping ❖ Cattle Events ❖ Packing ❖ Ranch Horse ❖ Rodeo ❖ Young Horse ❖ Green horse ❖ Horse Judging ❖ ❖ Driving ❖ Endurance Riding ❖ Polo ❖ Polocrosse ❖ Vaulting ❖ Creative Options ❖ Green Certificate ❖ Reining ❖ Drill Team ❖ Draft Horse ❖ Showing

Non- Mounted 4-H Equine Projects:

- ❖ 4-H equine projects can be non mounted projects and follow their own requirements.

Horse Judging Project

- ❖ Horse Judging 4-H members are not required to own their own horse.
- ❖ With this project, 4-H members will work through activities that will challenge their ability to judge both equine conformation and performance classes. This project has established assessment tools through which the member will gain experience judging both conformation and performance classes.

Driving Project

- ❖ Members are required to complete Horsemanship Dismounted Level 1-3 assessments.
- ❖ To participate in the driving project members must have a suitable project and access to resources for the member to be successful and safe.

Equine Creative Options

- ❖ 4-H members only enrol in an Equine Creative Option when they do not have access to a horse.
- ❖ Creative Options is a project where members can expand their knowledge about horse care, selection, management, health, marketing and careers in the equine industry.
- ❖ Equine Creative Options do not involve mounted or dismounted assessments.

Equine Green Certificate

- ❖ One of the equine curriculum options offered by the Green Certificate Program.
- ❖ Members taking this project are required to complete all the requirements of the Green Certificate program as well as those of the 4-H program, including a record book and log separate from the Green Certificate training manual.
- ❖ 4-H members must register with your school to get high school credits.

Club, Invitational or Interclub Project Regulations

- ❖ Invitational 4-H Event –the organizing committee must have a current signed MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with 4-H Alberta on file.
- ❖ Interclub 4-H Event – when one or more 4-H clubs are involved in the organization and members of two or more clubs participate in the event.
- ❖ In addition to these 4-H Alberta requirements listed herein, there may be additional rules and regulations (or requirements) from the club or interclub project committees. It is your responsibility to know these rules and regulations. The individual organizing committee is responsible for administration and enforcement of rules and regulations

Regulation Violation Consequences:

Anyone violating any of the above requirements will not be able to participate at any 4-H event relating to that project area, during the remainder of the project year.

If, due to unforeseen circumstances, a member is unable to finish a 4-H project in the traditionally accepted manner, the "club, district, regional committee, and or club leadership along with the 4-H member" need to consider and explore alternate methods that support a successful completion of the member's project. 4-H Alberta provides a safe, fun and inclusive environment for our members that is supported by caring adults who recognize that, in trying times, 4-H can also be flexible and accommodating to best serve our positive youth development focus.

4-H Rodeos:

- Invitational 4-H Rodeo – the organizing committee must have a current signed MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with 4-H Alberta on file.

- Interclub 4-H Rodeo – when one or more 4-H clubs are involved in the organization and members of two or more clubs participate in the rodeo.

Minimum Safety Requirements:

Organizer(s) must:

- 4-H Members are responsible to supply their own safety equipment.
  Ensure that all rodeo and event rules and regulations are followed and enforced.
- Ensure all participants wear proper western attire and certified, properly fitted, approved, non-expired, and structurally sound equestrian helmet.
- Ensure use of helmets (recommended with facemasks), mouth guards and flak jackets (which are mandatory) in steer/cow riding.

4-H Member Requirements for Rodeo Events

- You must be a 4-H member in good standing to compete in a 4-H Rodeo.
- Members may enter a rodeo while working on Horsemanship Levels 2 and 3. However, they must have completed Horsemanship Levels 1-3 in order to register for the Rodeo Project.
- 4-H Members are responsible for reading and understanding current 4-H rodeo rules.
- 4-H Members are expected to abide by the 4-H Alberta Code of Conduct.
  Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the entire rodeo.
- Non-equine events are open to any 4-H member who can show proof of prior training for the event in which they wish to compete at the time of registration.

Rodeo Committee Requirements

- ❖ The host 4-H club or host committee is responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants, spectators, officials and animals.
- ❖ The host 4-H club or committee must ensure each club, which enters participants in the rodeo, must provide a minimum of one (1) screened trained leader for every 10 participants.
- ❖ Each 4-H rodeo is required to have two designated, registered screened leaders available.
- ❖ A committee must be designated to ensure:
- ❖ Eligibility of all participants (project identification, training, horsemanship level completion)
  - ➢ Proper use and care of animals:
    - ■ Humane treatment of animals at all times.
    - ■ Disqualification of any participant using an animal that is obviously sore, lame, or injured in any way.
    - ■ Disqualification and/or removal from an event or the entire rodeo, of any person who is abusive to any animal.
    - ■ All animals prior to the event are in good health and are sound.
    - ■ Disqualification or removal of any participant from the event if they are not in control of the animal used, or show incompetence in the event. The participant and animal may compete in subsequent events.
  - ➢ Removal from the entire rodeo, of any person found to be interfering with or harassing any judge, official or 4-H member.
  - ➢ A process is established to accept for discussion and decision any complaints/grievances/appeals, received within thirty (30) minutes of the infraction containing two (2) signatures from someone other than the complainant or the complainant's immediate family.

Acceptable 4-H Rodeo Events

- ❖ 4-H Alberta sanctions the following events as approved 4-H rodeo events. All applicable rules and guidelines for each event can be found in the 4-H Rodeo Manual available from the 4-H Alberta. All rules must be strictly adhered to. Any additions to this list must be submitted to the 4-H Alberta along with appropriate rules, guidelines, assessment tools and safety precautions for approval. The approval process can take up to one year. 4-H Alberta will assume no responsibility for injuries or insurance claims relating to non sanctioned events.

<u>The events are as follows</u>:
Barrel Racing ❖ Keyhole Race ❖ Thread the Needle ❖ Break Away Roping ❖ Pole Bending ❖ Stake Race ❖ Big T Race ❖ Steer/Cow Riding ❖ Steer Daubing ❖ Team Roping ❖ Goat Tying ❖ Goat Tail Untying