Member/Project Horse Qualification Rules

Clackamas County Fair
A member may exhibit/show a maximum of five 4-H project horses. A single project horse may be used in any or all categories 1 through 4 below. However, ground training horses can only be shown in category 4. Members may not exhibit/show more than one horse per category. Members must indicate the category for which each horse will be used on the "Clackamas County 4-H Horse Project Identification" form.

Category 1. Performance horse (to be used for Dressage, Jumping, Trail, Equitation, and Showmanship).

Category 2. Western Gaming horse (may be used for showmanship if member has no equitation horse).

Category 3. Driving horse or pony (may be used for showmanship if member has no equitation horse).

Category 4. Ranch Horse (all fair entries include ranch horse showmanship)

Category 5. Ground Training horse - Yearling and 2 year old horses only (may be used for showmanship if member has no equitation horse).

A project horse, whether leased, shared, or owned by a single member, should represent the work of the 4-H member. If the member is not the person responsible for overseeing the care of the horse, is not the person training the horse, or if other people are riding the horse frequently, then the project will not be the work of the member. Only the 4-H member may show the horse, unless it is an OHSET meet.

State Fair
To be eligible for State Fair, the 4-H member is required to have participated in Showmanship at the Clackamas County Horse Fair. The horse which is shown in any event at State Fair must be the same horse with which the 4-H member qualified in that event at Clackamas County Fair.

Horse Changes
If a project horse is not able to be shown due to serious injury, serious illness, or death, the member may request to change horses. The change must be requested prior to June 1.

As soon as it is clear that a horse change will be needed, the 4-H member or leader should contact the Horse Superintendent. The Superintendent will schedule the horse change meeting (usually before the June fair entry meeting) and advise the member of what documents they need to bring to the meeting. If a veterinary medical condition is involved in the horse change, a signed veterinary certificate is required.

The 4-H member, accompanied by one parent or legal guardian and the main leader of their club, must attend the horse change committee meeting. If the main leader is unavailable, another leader from the club may stand in for the main leader.
If the 4-H member cannot make the horse change meeting, arrangements must be made for a private review at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting date.

The Horse Change Committee will consist of seven members; one or more Fair Superintendents or Assistants and either five or six Horse Advisory Voting Members.

If a change is approved for any horse, including adding discipline(s) for which a horse is used, that horse will not be eligible for Championship classes at Clackamas County Horse Fair or to participate at State Fair. If the 4-H member has other Identified Project Horses, those horses will not be affected by this change and will still be eligible for Championships and State Fair in their events.

If the horse is incapacitated after the June horse change meeting or the horse becomes unusable for reasons besides illness or injury, the member will not be allowed to change horses. In those cases, we encourage the leader and parent to counsel the member about the uncertainties of life and encourage the member to make other goals for the year, such taking on leadership activities in the club.

**Shared Horses**

The Clackamas County 4-H program strongly encourages that each member have access to his or her own horse to care for and train. When that is not possible, horses may be shared. A shared project horse is defined as only 2 immediate family members or 2 non-family members sharing the same horse including care and training responsibilities (Contest guide, p. 8).

Immediate family members may share any Performance, Gaming, Driving, and/or Ranch horse owned by the family, provided that the members can show in separate classes.

Two non-family members may share only a Performance horse, provided that the members can show in separate classes. These members may not show any other horses.

Ground training horses may not be shared.

Only one member will be allowed to take a horse into a championship class. Before the show, the members who share the horse should agree on how this will be determined.

**Leased Horses**

If a member does not own their own horse, or their horse is not suitable for use in another category, they may lease one or more horses. A member should have primary responsibility for the care and training of the leased horse, and the term of the lease must extend from at least April 1 to the end of county (or state) fair. A list of items that should be considered in a lease agreement can be found in the 4-H Horse Project Guide. A photocopy of the signed lease must be attached to the Horse Project Identification Form.