



Leasing/Borrowing a 4-H Project Horse

If you lease a horse, it is up to you to complete a legal agreement with the horse's owner. 4-H does not supply lease forms but you can find free and inexpensive forms online and 'samples' in the office. An excellent list of what to include in a lease can be found in your 4-H Horse Project Guide. The objective of the 4-H Horse Project is for the member to have primary responsibility (85% or more) for the care, training, maintenance and riding of the horse from at least April 1 through County Fair (or State Fair). A 4-H project horse may not be placed in the hands of a professional trainer during this time. **Lesson horses and "partial" or "sponsorship" leases are not ideal since the member rarely has primary responsibility for the horse, however they can be used with some restrictions.** (see below) *Copies of Lease/Borrow Agreements and Horse Project Records are due by April 1st.*

Types of Ownership/Uses for 4-H Project Horses

Lease/Borrow:

A member has completed a Lease/Borrow agreement with the owner of the horse and has full privilege to use the horse as their 4-H Project Horse and during the time of the agreement, the member will be the only rider/handler of the horse. This horse and rider can qualify for the State 4-H Horse Show if they meet the requirements. They are also given all the rights and privileges at the County 4-H Horse Show.

Shared:

A shared horse is used by immediate family members or two non-family members, including care, maintenance and training of the horse. When the horse is not the property of the family of the youth involved a Lease/Borrow agreement needs to be completed. The 4-H members will be the only riders/handlers of the horse. Members and parents must recognize that adjustments and/or choices may need to be made to adapt to show conditions or schedules, such as when two members are in the same class or are competing for championships.

Sponsored:

A member is given permission by an owner to use their horse, while the owner retains the right to use/ride the horse for themselves. This horse should have a Lease/Borrow agreement that outlines the details for both the 4-H member and owner. It is ideal that the 4-H member be as involved as possible with the care, maintenance and training of the horse. It is also preferred that the member have sole ridership for the last 30 days prior to the County 4-H Horse Show. These horses are welcome at County Fair, but **do not qualify for County Fair Call Back Classes or the State 4-H Horse Show.**

Lesson Horse:

A lesson horse is a horse that is owned, housed and used by the owner to provide lessons for customers. This horse is not under the responsibility of the 4-H member the majority of the time. The 4-H member will ride the horse as often as possible and should work and volunteer with the owner to have as much contact as possible. Though this is not an ideal situation for the 4-H Horse Project, it is a method for members to be involved at an entry level as they learn and gain experience to the point where they can have their own 4-H Project Horse. These horses are welcome at County Fair, but **do not qualify for County Fair Call Back Classes or the State 4-H Horse Show.**