



## Basic Information Agents need to know about Virginia's 4-H Horse Program

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Cooperative Extension

### ➤ State Level Events

- EquiSmartz: <http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/horse/index.html> Held at the Virginia Horse Festival in the spring at the State Fairgrounds in Doswell, VA. For ages 9-19. Qualification rules are posted on the EquiSmartz page and the District Representative can also help answer questions.
  - Horse Judging- The objective of Horse Judging is to help 4-H members grow in their analytical decision making and communication skills. Judging is making a decision and telling why it was made. Contestants use their knowledge of current standards and rules from United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), or other breed association rulebooks to judge and rank classes consisting of 4 in-hand or halter horses as well as four horses in various performance classes. Youth are asked to defend their placings by giving sets of oral reasons to official judges.
  - Hippology - an equine knowledge contest that consists of four phases: Horse Judging, Written Examination and slide ID, Station ID's, and Team Problem Solving. Emphasis should be on reading, studying, learning and fun.
  - Horse Bowl- similar to Jeopardy. This quick-paced contest is played with buzzers and the first contestant to buzz in and answer the question correctly wins points for their team. Teams of four to five players compete against each other. The fifth player is designated as the alternate. Three types of questions are used: one-on-one questions, open questions and toss-up questions with bonus attached. The top 5 teams per District are allowed to enter.
  - Public Speaking- The objective of the public speaking program is to teach 4-H members how to “stand on their own two feet and relay their ideas about a specific equine-related topic to someone else.” 4-Hers learn to research, evaluate, and organize facts about a topic and deliver the speech. The top 6 individuals per District are allowed to enter.
  - Individual Presentation- The objective of the presentation program is to have 4-H members develop and improve skills, increase their knowledge, and learn to express themselves. Similar to Public Speaking but visual aids can be used. The top 6 individuals per District are allowed to enter.

- Team Presentation- Similar to Individual Presentation but two people are presenting together with visual aids. A team must be comprised of two members. The top 6 teams per District are allowed to enter.
- State Horse Show- Held in Lexington, VA at the Virginia Horse Center the 2nd or 3rd weekend of September every year (Thursday through Sunday).  
<http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/horse/events/state-horse-show/index.html> Entry fee of \$150 and due July 13.
- State Fair Horse Show- Held in Doswell, VA during the Virginia State Fair usually the first weekend of October (last weekend of the state fair) every year, with events being Ranch Riding classes (including cattle work), Drill Team performances and a fun show. Entry fee varies per class and due in August. <http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/horse/events/state-fair-horse-show/index.html>.

➤ **Qualifying Criteria for the State Horse Show and State Fair Show:**

- All 4-Hers must:
  - 1) Be enrolled in a club and horse project by January 1 to be eligible for the State 4-H Horse Show in September.
  - 2) Submit and up-to-date Virginia Horse Project Junior (406-122) or Senior (406-123) Record Book as appropriate for their age.
  - 3) Participate in one county, area or state 4-H event other than the district show or qualifying clinic.
  - 4) Compete at a district qualifying show and complete at least one class, or participate in a qualifying clinic.
  - 5) Declare their project horse(s) on-line and paperwork in the agent's office by **May 1<sup>st</sup>** of the project year.
  - 6) Pass levels 1 and 2 of the horsemanship skills if it is their first time at the State Show or if they are taking a horse that is new to them. The exemption is for seniors (ages 14-19) that have acquired a new project horse, who 1) have previously passed Levels 1 and 2 of Horsemanship Skills and 2) have exhibited at the state horse show at least twice.
  - 7) Only 4-Hers that are 10 and older may attend the State Show however 9 year olds are allowed to show at the State Fair.
  - 8) **Each Club, County &/or District may have additional requirements.**

➤ **Who does online eligibility/declaration form for horses**

- Either the individual themselves or the club leader will be the one to complete the online eligibility form but this should be coordinated with the leader.



- In addition, submit a hard copy of your declaration form(s) to your county extension office and have your county agent sign them prior to **May 1<sup>st</sup>** of each year.

### ➤ **Horsemanship Skills**

- Virginia 4-H's Horsemanship Skills Program emphasizes safety in all equine activities, and aims to develop horsemanship skills and recognize individual achievement in a non-competitive, progressive program. As this program is further developed, additional levels and skill sets will be added. <http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/horse/events/horsemanship-skills/index.html>
- 4-Hers in Virginia who have not previously shown at the state level (plus any new horse/rider combination) will be required to complete Horsemanship Skills Levels 1 & 2 in order to be eligible for the 4-H Championship Horse & Pony Show.

### ➤ **Measurement**

- Each equine is to have a **Green** measurement card. Agents are to print these cards in their offices on green cardstock. <http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/406/406-050/406-050.html>
- Each measurement card **must have** the signature of a USEF Steward or Certified 4-H Horse Measurer. (Site of 4-H Measurers: [http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/horse/events/state-horse-show/files/horse\\_m measurers\\_updated.pdf](http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/horse/events/state-horse-show/files/horse_m measurers_updated.pdf))
- Horses that are under age 5 are required to obtain a new measurement card each year. Once they receive the measurement card in their fifth year, the card becomes permanent for that horse.

### ➤ **County Club Issues**

- The state office of the horse program supports the rules specific to county or district level projects.
- A youth can only be a member in one county unit, but can participate in a project (in a different club/county) that is not offered in their club or county.
- Lone Star member eligibility is reserved for those youth who are not a member of a Horse Club due to some physical or personal limitations. Contact Celeste Crisman with reference to the horse program and lone star.

### ➤ **Trophies at State Horse Show**

- Perpetual trophies must be returned by the beginning of the state horse show.
- Trophy winners are responsible for having a plate engraved and placed on trophy.
- When a trophy is full, it is then retired to the 4-H State display case at the Virginia Horse Center. A new trophy will then be given by the previous donor or a new source.
- All trophy winners will receive a letter requesting the trophy be returned at the beginning of the State Show so any repairs and cleaning can occur prior to presenting the trophy to the next winner



➤ **Contact People**

- Celeste Crisman- Equine Extension Specialist, 540-231-9162, [ccrisman@vt.edu](mailto:ccrisman@vt.edu)
- Sandy Arnold – 4-H Horse Program Associate – 540-687-3521 [horse4h@vt.edu](mailto:horse4h@vt.edu)
- Leona Ransdell – 4-H Horse Program Associate - 540-231-6345 [leonar@vt.edu](mailto:leonar@vt.edu)

➤ **District Horse Council Representatives**

- Southwest
  - Leslie Prillaman (Agent) [lesliep@vt.edu](mailto:lesliep@vt.edu)
- Southeast Region 1
  - <http://sedr2hc.wordpress.com/>
  - Janine Wilson (volunteer) - [janinedwilson@gmail.com](mailto:janinedwilson@gmail.com)
- Southeast Region 2
  - <http://sedr2hc.wordpress.com/>
  - Krista Gustafson (Agent) - [kgustaf@vt.edu](mailto:kgustaf@vt.edu)
- Northern
  - <https://sites.google.com/site/northerndistva4horse/Home>
  - Carrie Swanson (Agent) [cswanson@vt.edu](mailto:cswanson@vt.edu)
- Central
  - <https://sites.google.com/site/centraldistva4horse/>
  - Bonnie Tillotson (Agent) from Appomattox, VA [btillots@vt.edu](mailto:btillots@vt.edu)
  - Jeanne Morcom (Co-President) from Amherst, VA [morcomjd@aol.com](mailto:morcomjd@aol.com)
  - Jo Ann Miller (Co-President) form Forest, VA [executivedirector@brookhillfarm.org](mailto:executivedirector@brookhillfarm.org)

➤ **How to get on the listserv**

- <http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/horse/horse-listserv.html>
- All leaders and youth should be encouraged to sign up for the 4-H Horse Listserv so they can receive pertinent information on events and deadlines. This helps to ease the burden of the agents to make sure all info is in the hands of the leaders – especially in case of sickness or vacation! **Empower your leaders to help you with responsibility!**

➤ **Facebook page**

- <https://www.facebook.com/va4Hhorse?fref=ts>
- Should “Like” and pay attention to the information going up on the page.
- Anyone can post on the Facebook page but will show up on left side – or you can send to us to post in main feed. We encourage posting pictures from 4-H events.

➤ **County Level payments to State 4-H Horse Program and Block & Bridle contests.**

- State Horse Show, EquiSmartz
  - Personal checks can be submitted by a parent or leader with each entry for any event.
  - For Clubs that have their own account (501c3 status) may write out a check to VTF-Horse with EquiSmartz or State Show on the memo line as appropriate.
  - For clubs that no longer have checking accounts entry fees will be paid through the extension office.
    - For counties paying out of foundation accounts, they can directly transfer funds from their foundation accounts to VTF-Horse Show 872720 (for State Show) and VTF-Horse 881389 (for EquiSmartz). Please provide a copy of transfer form to the state office when sending entry forms so we will know how to expect payment.
    - For counties paying out of agency accounts (which are state accounts), payments will need to be processed through a HokieMart purchase order. To do this the county should use the EquiSmartz or State Show entry form as a receipt, and HokieMart will generate a check to “VTF-Horse Show 872720” (for State Show) and “VTF-Horse 881389” (for EquiSmartz) for payment. Please provide PO number to state office when sending entry forms so we will know how to expect payment.
- Block and Bridle (B&B)
  - Entries can be paid through the county office agency account using HokieMart paid to “Block & Bridle Club” as a vendor, since B&B only has a foundation account. Or a transfer from the county foundation account to the B&B Foundation account #881816.
- **Funds cannot be transferred from a State account to a Foundation account.**

➤ **Donations**

- [http://www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/programs/anscience/horse/Program\\_Resources/donated\\_and\\_leased\\_animals.pdf](http://www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/programs/anscience/horse/Program_Resources/donated_and_leased_animals.pdf). This link provides detailed information on the donation and leasing of animals in the 4-H program. The Virginia 4-H program prohibits the acceptance of donated animals of any kind in the name of 4-H. This policy includes both unit and state 4-H programs. However, the proceeds of the sale of animals will be accepted.

➤ **Survival Guide for Horse Leaders**

- [http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/406/406-130/406-130\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/406/406-130/406-130_pdf.pdf). This is the link to the survival guide. Every office should have a copy with the person responsible for the 4-H program.

➤ **Risk Management policies and liabilities**

- [http://www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/programs/anscience/horse/Program\\_Resources/risk\\_management.pdf](http://www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/programs/anscience/horse/Program_Resources/risk_management.pdf).  
Within this link are the explanations of risk management policies for the 4-H Horse program and guidelines for other events and has the links to all the forms as well.
- American Life Insurance – clubs can purchase insurance at \$2 per member for year.  
<http://www.americanincomelife.com/who-we-serve/4-h-insurance>

➤ **Emergency Procedures**

- The Emergency Procedures card, VCE pub # 490-101, was developed as a resource for staff and volunteers. It should be used to identify important emergency contacts and telephone numbers. Horse leaders should obtain these from their county agent and have them in their possession at all 4-H events.
- <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/490/490-101/490-101-PDF.pdf>

➤ **Equine Waiver**

- All 4-Hers and volunteers participating in the equine program **must sign** this VT Equine Release, Waiver, and Indemnification Statement - <http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/388/388-035/388-035-PDF.pdf>
- Note there is a section on the waiver for adults who choose not to wear a helmet while riding in a 4-H sponsored event.

➤ **When to complete the accident form, and when do you call 911**

- Required for serious illnesses, significant behavioral problems, or accidents involving injuries like fractured bones, chipped or broken teeth, extensive lacerations involving sutures, falls involving unconsciousness, dislocations, incidents involving water which require resuscitation, or any injury requiring hospital stay.
- Emergency Card info - <http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/490/490-101/490-101.html>
- Accident Incident report form - <http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/388/388-034/388-034.html>

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