

Latah County 4-H Horse Project

Guidelines and Procedures

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I. Objectives of Horse Program

- A. Develop leadership, citizenship, responsibility, and other life-skills and character traits as outlined in the 4-H Life Skills Model. Prepare young people for citizenship responsibilities through working in groups and supporting community horse projects and activities.
- B. Increase knowledge of horse related safety precautions to prevent injury to self, others, and your horse.
- C. Develop equestrian skills and an appreciation of horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
- D. Develop an understanding of the horse industry.
- E. Experience the pride of caring for a horse or pony and being responsible for its management.
- F. Promote greater love for animals and a humane attitude toward them.

II. Projects Offered

- A. Non-Horse Project
 - a. Horse not required
- B. Horse Project
 - a. Optional Focus Areas: Please check the state website at <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h> for available options.
- C. Self-Determined Projects – If a project area that a member wishes to participate in is not offered, that member may apply to complete a self-determined project. Applications must be submitted to the Extension Office by March 1. For more information, contact the Extension Office.
- D. Please check the state website at <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h> for other available projects.

III. Eligibility

- A. Membership/Age: Meet requirement as identified in the State Policies and Procedures. 4-H age is the age of the individual on January 1 of the current 4-H year.

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Age</u>
Cloverbud	5-7 years old
Junior	8-10 years old
Intermediate	11-13 years old
Senior	14-18 years old
- B. Attendance: Please review the current Idaho State Policy and Procedures.
- C. Project Animal Eligibility: May be a horse/pony of any breed or age. (Except stallions over one year of age.)
 - a. Members must own or lease all project animal(s) by April 15th of the 4-H year.

- b. The 4-H members should care for (feed, exercise, and handle) the project animal(s) the majority of the time with appropriate adult supervision. In the event the animal is leased and/or stabled away from the 4-H member's home, the 4-H member should be actively involved in working the animal on a regular basis.
- D. Members must have the following forms on file with the Extension Office by April 15th of the 4-H year:
 - a. Latah County 4-H Equine Identification Form.
 - b. Photo of project horse(s): Profile view showing all four legs and head of horse.
 - c. Signed and dated lease agreement form if applicable. (Appendix B)
- E. Project Animal Changes: After April 16th of the current 4-H year, any member wishing to change their project horse(s) must submit a formal written request to the Latah County Extension Office and Horse Leaders Committee.
 - a. The required horse identification form, photos, and lease agreement (if applicable) must accompany the letter.
 - b. At the discretion of the Extension Office, a formal interview may be required.
 - c. Members will be notified in writing of the decision.

IV. Required Activities

- A. Members are required to complete (5) educational activities. They are in addition to all required activities listed below. Example activities include observation journals, field trips, or to be determined by your club leader.
- B. Give an oral presentation (speech, demonstration, or illustrated talk) related to this project within your club or at a county or district event.
- C. Attendance at, at least one, county activity contest: Horse Bowl, Horse Judging, Speaking Contests (Demonstrations, Illustrated Talk, or Public Speaking), or Model Horse Show.
- D. Complete the following: (Due to the Latah County Extension Office by 5:00 pm, the first Tuesday of September.)
 - a. 4-H Record Book
 - i. Horse Project: use 4-H Animal Project Record Book
 - ii. Non-Horse Project: use 4-H Project Record Book
 - iii. Latah County 4-H Equine Identification Form
 - iv. Involvement Report
 - v. Optional Focus Area Skills Checklist
 - vi. For Cloverbud projects please see Section X.
- E. Exhibit
 - a. Horse Project: Exhibit your horse(s) at the county horse show or other approved event.
 - b. Non-Horse: Exhibit at the Latah County Fair a poster or display illustrating something you learned in the project year.

- F. Gaming Safety and Arena Etiquette Clinics
 - a. Safety Clinic and Arena Etiquette: Course may include but not limited to, hand on inspection of tack and helmet, safe handling, and other safety issues with the horse. (The course may be at the county or club level as determined by the Latah County Extension Office.)

V. Code of Conduct

- A. Ethical, sportsmanlike conduct is expected of all 4-H members, parents, leaders, and spectators.
- B. Adult Involvement
 - a. Parents, leaders, and experienced adults may work with youth and their project animals to teach proper handling, training, conditioning, and showing techniques. Appropriate adult involvement is encouraged, yet adults should *not* perform the majority of the work with the project animal(s). Adults are encouraged to work with youth and assist them to safely and properly handle and care for their project animal(s). Rail coaching while the youth is performing is *not* permitted. In instances where safety is a concern, i.e., a run-away horse, the member should have one designated adult (generally their leader) that will give them guidance in the situation. This will allow the member to focus on listening to only one voice to guide them through the situation.
 - b. 4-H members who are not physically capable of “tacking up” or grooming their horse may enlist the help of another 4-H member or leader. The member must be present and participating to the best of his/her ability.
- C. Animal Welfare
 - a. Humane treatment of horses is expected. Cruelty or rough handling will not be allowed.
 - b. It is the responsibility of every 4-H member to ensure that proper care is taken of his/her horse. A healthy horse requires sufficient food, water, shelter, and correct health care.
 - c. Animals must not show evidence of lameness or other unsoundness that renders that animal unsuitable for the use intended.
- D. Judges and Club Lessons: There shall be no private individual or club lessons or clinics with the announced horse show judges less than 60 days prior to the announced horse show date. If the judges are announced less than 60 days prior to the show, there shall be no private individual or club lessons or clinics with those individuals after the announcement. Violation of this policy may result in individuals or clubs not permitted to exhibit at the county horse show. County-wide clinics with the judges sponsored by the Latah County Extension Office are permitted at anytime of the year.

VI. County Activities

- A. Oral Demonstration or Speech Contests: The oral demonstration, illustrated talk, team demonstration, and public speaking contests are held at county and district activity day events. Youth presenting in horse related oral topics at county activity day may be eligible for the Idaho State Youth Horse Contests.
- B. Horse Bowl: This is a contest based on knowledge of horses similar to a quiz bowl. Contact the Extension Office for study materials. Individuals compete at the county level. At the county contest, names will be placed in a hat and drawn for teams to compete. The top five individuals at the county level comprise the team to represent Latah County at the District Horse Bowl.
- C. Horse Judging: Participants evaluate four to six performance and/or confirmation classes and give written and/or oral reasons. At the county level it is an individual competition. One team and the top placing individuals in each age division are eligible for State Competitions.
- D. County Show
- a. May be cohosted with other counties as needed for sufficient participant numbers.
 - b. Date and location are to be determined by the end of February.
 - c. The county show is the official exhibit for the horse project.
 - d. All horse members are required to exhibit their horse in a show, fair, or other extension 4-H/Youth program approved event.
 - e. For members unable to participate in the County 4-H Horse Show, participation in an alternative event prior to the record book due date, may be substituted at the 4-H Horse Leaders Council discretion and with approval of the Extension Office. Approval to be no later than the county horse show entry deadline. These members will be ineligible for County year-end awards. To be eligible for any county awards the member must participate in the County 4-H Horse Show.
 - f. Show ring events may include:

Showmanship	Jr. Green Horse
Trail	Bareback Equitation
Western Equitation	Saddle Seat Equitation
Hunt Seat Equitation	Hunt Seat over Fences
Dressage	Driving
 - g. Show ring events may include: (Any class not fully described in the PNW574: 4-H Horse Contest Guide must have a designated rule book such as ApHC, APHA, AQHA, TWEBHA, or NRHA to govern that class. However, these rules cannot supersede any guidelines in the PNW574: 4-H Horse Contest Guide.)

Western Pleasure	Hunter Under Saddle
Reining	In-hand Trail (miniature or <2 years of age)
Ranch Horse Classes	Versatility

Walk-Trot Western

Walk-Trot English

- h. All classes must include a class for each age division. Classes with low entries may be combined at the judge and show committees' discretion; however, age divisions MUST be judged and scored separately.

E. Western Games

- a. Held in conjunction with the County Horse Show.
- b. All gaming participants must compete in a Showmanship class at the Latah County 4-H Horse Show.
- c. Individuals wishing to participate in the Western Games at the county show must have participated in a safety and gaming clinic prior to the show.
- d. Game events may include:

Pole Bending

Idaho Figure-8

Key Race

Texas Barrels

Flag Race

- e. Game events may include: (Any class not fully described in the PNW574: 4-H Horse Contest Guide must have a designated rule book such as NSCA (National Saddle Club Association). However, these rules cannot supersede any guidelines in the PNW574: 4-H Horse Contest Guide.)

Figure-8 Stake Race

2 Barrel Flag Race

Water Race

Egg & Spoon Race

Arena Race

Polo Turn

When choosing additional events, safety must be the ultimate consideration

VII. Safety Policies

A. The 4-H Equestrian Headgear Policy

4-H members participating in any 4-H equestrian activity must wear an approved helmet whenever they are mounted on an equine or in a vehicle (cart, wagon, buggy, etc.) being pulled by an equine. Any rider violating this rule at any time will immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. An approved helmet meets the minimum performance standards imposed by the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) F1163 and includes certification and labeling required by the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI). The helmet must be properly fastened. It is recommended that 4-Hers wear their ASTM/SEI helmets any time they are around their horse.

EXCEPTION: The type of headgear for the exhibitor in showmanship is optional. ASTM/SEI helmets, although not required for showmanship, are encouraged. Either an appropriate hat or helmet must be worn

(FYI: this is directly from PNW574: 4-H Horse Contest Guide pages 6 and 11.)

Horse Leaders are encouraged to set an example by adhering to the 4-H Equestrian Headgear Policy.

B. Jumping Vests

- a. Use of ASTM/SEI jumping vests are strongly encouraged in jumping events. Members will not be docked by judges for wearing a jumping vest in place of a jacket.
- C. All 4-H members should be able to safely and confidently control and handle their project animal(s) prior to showing at the County Horse Show.
 - a. All members that will be exhibiting a horse will be required to complete a safety course that meets the approval of the Latah County Extension Office.

VIII. Available Resources

4-H Horse Contest Guide PNW574: Rules and regulations for governing any Idaho state 4-H horse show and the District show. Latah County uses these rules for the county horse show and western games. *****

Horses and Horsemanship: Project resource manual recommended for first year members.

Horse Science: Educational resource manual that covers the behavior of horses, anatomy and action, soundness, age, reproduction, digestion, feeds and nutrients, and health and diseases.

Basic Horse Safety: Used for safety clinic to teach youth members basic safety around horses. *****

Horse Show Checklist: Serves as a check off list for horse show planning. Developed by the Latah County Horse Leaders. Appendix E.

Latah County 4-H Horse Project Guidelines and Procedures: Latah County uses this as guidelines for the county horse show and western games.

Latah County 4-H Horse Leader's Handbook:

Horse Industry Handbook: An overall resource for equine information. Published by the American Youth Horse Council.

Youth Leaders Manual: A resource for equine educational activities. Contains lessons and activities for beginners, intermediates, and advanced youth.

The Horse: Features the most current advances in research about horse science. Covers every aspect of horses from riding, grooming, and tack to genetics, nutrition, and health. Authored by J. Warren Evans, Anthony Borton, Harold Hintz, and L. Dale Van Vleck.

Action, Balance, Conformation: Provides the basics for horse judging. *****

Horse Pattern: Horse Project Training Aid. *****

Horse Project Helpers Guide: Leader's guide that is used to complement the 4-H CCS curriculum books. *****

Extension videos and CD's: The Latah County Extension Office has several videos, DVDs, and CDs available for check-out. Contact the office for a current list.

Other resources are available on-line, through breed registries, veterinarian clinics, and pharmaceutical companies.

*****Resources that are most useful for horse leaders.

IX. Awards & Contests

- A. County Medals: Members are eligible to receive a county medal if they received a blue ribbon on their record book and in the showmanship class at the Latah County 4-H Horse Show. Points are earned for county medals based on member's placing at county activity contests, which include: horse bowl, demonstration, horse judging, showmanship, horse show, and record book.
- B. Idaho State Youth Horse Contests: The Idaho Youth Horse Contests are state level events held annually for eligible 4-H, FFA, and other Idaho youth. This event is rotated by districts (3 statewide districts) throughout the state of Idaho and serves as the qualifier for many national competitions. To qualify for the state contest, individuals must have placed in the top placing at either the county or district contests.

The following events take place at the state contest:

- Horse Judging
- Horse Bowl
- Demonstration and Public Speaking

- C. Idaho Horsemanship Award: This state award consists of two phases:
 - a. Written test. The Latah County Extension Office gives this in June. Contestants must receive a 70% or higher score. A participant must pass the test in order to compete in phase two.
 - b. Performance phase. Consists of testing on grooming and handling, lunging, western or English equitation, reining, practical demonstration, and other skills from the Level General Equitation. Youth must pass this phase with a score of 90% or better. Contact the Extension Office for the Idaho Horsemanship application or you may go to the state website, <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h>.

X. Record Books and Forms

- A. All record books are available through ZSuite, the online 4-H portal.
<https://4h.zsuite.org/>
- B. The following pages contain the necessary forms needed to complete the Latah County 4-H Horse Project. These pages may be copied for distribution amongst 4-H members.
 - a. All horse project members must complete and submit:

- Animal Record Book
- Any Optional Focus Area Skills Checklists for which you are enrolled
- Permanent Animal Record (use same form for each horse every year)
- Involvement Report (use same form each year, submit in your record or as required during general project check-in at Latah County Fair)
- b. All non-horse project members must complete and submit:
 - General Record Book
 - A poster or display illustrating something you learned this year.
 - Involvement Report (use same form each year, submit in your record or as required during general project check-in at Latah County Fair)
- c. All Cloverbud members must complete and submit:
 - (materials available at <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h>)
 - Cloverbud Memory Book
- C. Horse record books and other required forms must be completed (including leader signatures) and submitted to the Latah County Extension Office for judging by 5:00pm, the first Tuesday of September.

XI. Guidelines and Policy Revisions

- A. Any guideline or policy revisions from leaders or members need to be presented at the November Horse Leader's Committee meeting in writing.
- B. Requested revisions will be distributed prior to the January Horse Leader's Committee meeting.
- C. Current 4-H Project Requirement Handbook and 4-H Policies and Procedures will prevail.
- D. Specific policy changes, curriculum changes, basic requirements, and any other major components of this handout will be reviewed yearly at the November meeting.

The Latah County 4-H Horse Project Guidelines and Procedures were completed using the following resources: Idaho State 4-H Policies and Procedures 2010-2011, Latah County 4-H Leaders Council By-Law's, Kootenai County 4-H Horse Leaders Handbook, Bonner County 4-H Leader's Council By-Laws, 2001 Latah County 4-H Horse Leaders, Handbook compiled by Anita Falen, Guidelines for Kootenai/Shoshone County Horse Eligibility, Idaho 4-H Projects Requirement Handbook, Idaho Youth Horse Contest Handbook.