



FAQ's about Livestock and Equine Insurance

Insurance information courtesy of:

Fred Clements, Swenson Insurance Agency.

As a parent, leader or member you may be asking yourself, "What insurance do I have for myself and my livestock for 4-H events and what is covered?". The answer is not a simple one, and the answer in every case is to contact your insurance agent. There are several different Homeowner, Farm owner and Livestock policies offered in Vermont, each with their own set of coverages and exclusions. Below you will find frequently asked questions and some steps to take to make sure your questions have been answered. No endorsement of any product, agency or practice is implied.

1. **What is included on my homeowners, what am I liable for and what does my coverage mean?** There are three different editions of the standard Homeowner policy used in Vermont, plus several companies write their own, and each policy is slightly different. Make a list of the concerns that you have and make an appointment with your agent.
2. **I live on a farm and what does that cover?** Farm owner policies can be very specific to what is covered and what is not. Many policies only cover the operations described in the policy. If you insured your farm for boarding and later decided to start a lesson program, you may not have instructors liability until it is added.
3. **I board my horse at another facility? Do they have Care, Custody, and Control Coverage?** The facilities commercial general liability policy excludes injuries to a horse in their care, custody or control. Therefore Care, Custody, and Control insurance is obtained by the farm to cover this gap. For the coverage to step in, the farm has to be negligent in allowing the horse to be injured. This insurance is for training or boarding facilities who keep or care for horses of others.
4. **Do I need to have Mortality Insurance?** Full mortality is like life insurance. This is coverage for designated animals if they are mortally injured or destroyed. This financially protects the owner or lessee against the premature death of animals. Some policies have an agreed value feature, while others will pay the actual value or policy limit, whichever is less. Many policies will allow you to add health insurance, to cover surgeries such as colic or broken limbs.
5. **What is Cargo Insurance?** Cargo insurance covers loss or damage to what you are hauling. Nothing about cargo insurance is standard. Policy exclusions vary by company and commodities hauled. Ask the shipper what coverage they have before you load your animal.

*Wendy Sorrell, State 4-H Livestock Educator
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