

4-H Equine Event Safety Rules For Exhibitors of Young Animals

Objective:

Promote safety and safety awareness for youth, parents/guardians, leaders, mentors and 4-H Educators while working with young equine.

A young equine is defined as any equine less than three years of age.

Requirements at 4-H Equine Events:

- Youth must be 14 years of age as of January 1 of the current 4-H year to handle young equine
- Equine ridden under saddle or driven must be three years old or older
- Any type of equine may be used for the 4-H Equine Project
- The animal should suit the size, skill, and competency of the rider/handler
- The rider/handler should be able to keep the animal under control at all times and manage her/him safely*
- For all events proper equestrian footwear shall be worn at all times when handling any equine.
- Approved helmets must be worn at all times when handling young equine
- The youth must have at least one year experience of working with a mature, trained equine
- Youth working with an equine under three years of age, need to be supervised by an adult who has past experience working with a young equine
- Judges, officials, or clinicians will not discriminate against exhibitors wearing an approved helmet when handling young animals

Restrictions at 4-H Equine Events:

- Unweaned foals of any age are not permitted
- Colts/stallions are not permitted regardless of age

Observation of these requirements for 4-H youth working with an equine in any situation is strongly suggested even if you choose to not attend any 4-H event with your equine but still want to do the equine project with a young equine.

*An equine and rider/handler may be excused from any 4-H event by the judge, official or clinician if they feel any situation is dangerous and may cause harm.

Some information adapted and modified from the New England 4-H Horse Show Rules and Guidelines