

# Madera County 4-H Horse Show and Horse Project Rules

The objective of the 4-H Horse Project Programs are to help 4-H boys and girls:

- Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and other desirable traits of character.
- Experience the pride and responsibility of owning/leasing a horse or pony and receive education on its care, feeding, management and related costs.
- Appreciate horseback riding as healthy and wholesome recreation.
- Acquire skill, patience and understanding in handling horses.
- Learn safety precautions to prevent injuries to self, others and animals.
- Develop a love for animals and humane attitude toward them.
- Prepare for citizenship responsibility by working together and by supporting community projects and activities.
- Learn to teach approved practice by demonstration.

In addition, basic horsemanship abilities that are learned in the projects are tested at various countywide shows sponsored by clubs. The following rules pertain to 4-H sanctioned horse shows. Only 4-H sanctioned shows and events are covered by 4-H insurance. **To adequately qualify and participate in Madera County Horse Shows, the following rules and policies must be met and followed:**

## I. Eligibility:

- A. The member must sign a Madera County 4-H Member Horse Project Rule Sheet, Horse Ownership/Lease Papers and Horse Identification Sheet at time of enrollment or acquiring a new horse. These forms must be on file in the 4-H office 120 days before showing.
- B. Member shall be the sole owner or have a long term lease on the horse, during which time the horse cannot be in training by a professional for the 120 days prior to said show. A copy of Madera County 4-H Member Horse Project Rule Sheet, Ownership/Lease Papers and Horse Identification Sheet must be filed with the 4-H office 120 days before showing.
  1. The duration of the lease shall be for one 4-H calendar year from July to June or can be the duration of the member's 4-H career.
  2. There must be a minimum of 120 days possession prior to showing, for lease or ownerships.
  3. Any disputes shall be presented *in writing* to the Madera County Horse Committee Chair *by the leader of the club involved*.
  4. In case of injury, sickness or death, the 4-H member must obtain veterinarian verification and notify the Madera Horse Committee Chair 30 days prior to the show in order to participate with another horse (replacement horse must have ownership/lease papers on file in the 4-H office and be carried in the members record book).
- C. 4-H members are required to participate in accordance to their local community club and horse project rules. Entries in all shows must be signed by the horse project leader. Out of county entries must be signed by the Madera County 4-H Youth Advisor.

- D. Stallions or any horse judged to be unsafe among exhibitors, members or leaders at the show will be asked to leave by event staff or management. Colts or fillies under 6 months of age or at a mares side (nursing) will be asked to leave by event staff or management.
- E. Any horse that is unsound or unhealthy shall be excluded from the show on the discretion of the judge or show manager.
- F. No abuse shall be used on any horse at any time.
- G. No horse may be shown in any one class or event by more than one contestant.
- H. No contestant may ride more than one horse in any class or event.
- I. During any show only the member entered in said show may ride or warm up their horse.
- J. The contestant's grade in school will be determined at the date of the horse show.
- K. There will be no side-line coaching at any time during the horse show or the rider will be disqualified for that event.
- L. Unsportsmanship-like conduct will not be tolerated at any time. The member will be eliminated from the show. The member and parent(s) will be asked to leave by event staff or management.
- M. 4-H parents, leaders or contestants will not administer mood altering drugs to any horse shown.

## **II. Clothing:**

- A. Appropriate Western Attire must include:
  - 1. Western boots.
  - 2. Long sleeve white shirt fastened at wrist.
  - 3. Safety horse helmet (ASTM/SEI certified).
  - 4. Belt.
- B. Appropriate English Attire must include:
  - 1.