

Grays Harbor County 4-H Equine Animal Management & Ownership Requirements

Part I. 4-H Project Animal Ownership Definition and Deadlines

All animals to be exhibited in the 4-H department must be acquired and in the possession of the member no later than **March 1 (pre-fair) or May 1 (county fair)** of the current 4-H year, and carried as a project. Animals used but not owned by members must be in their possession and care by May 1 to be exhibited at the fair.

Animal ownership in the PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide is defined as:

Project Animal

Each member is expected to have access to one or more horses which may be owned, shared, or leased. A shared project animal is defined as only immediate family members or two non-family members sharing the same horse, including care and training responsibilities. Members and parents must recognize that adjustments and/or choices may need to be made to adapt to show conditions or schedules, such as when two members are in the same class or are competing for championships.

A lease agreement is permissible if the member provides primary care for the horse. States or counties may require that a copy of the lease be included in the member's record book.

The horse shown in a 4-H exhibit activity must be the member's project horse. To participate at state fair, an exhibitor must use the same horse that was exhibited at the county fair. Stallions older than 12 months are NOT allowed in 4-H contests or events.

Possession

The goal of 4-H is to ensure that youth have opportunities within the four Essential Elements of the 4-H Youth Development Program (belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity). Projects are used as tools to promote positive youth development. The purpose of 4-H events is for 4-H members to demonstrate what they have accomplished with their projects during the year. The goals of the 4-H program are only met if the accomplishments demonstrated are the result of the 4-H member's own work. Therefore, project animals (owned, leased, or shared) must be under the care and management of the 4-H member at least 90 days before the animal may be shown at the official county exhibit activity.

In **Washington** and **Idaho**, only the 4-H member(s) can personally train their animal 90 days prior to the county-designated event and state fair.

Replacement

Counties have the option to use an appeal board or variance committee process to determine if the animal in question can be replaced in the case of death, severe injury, or unsafe behavior. A successful appeal may show at the county level, but will not be allowed to exhibit at state fair.

Part II. 4-H Equine Horse Certificate Replacement Process

The 4-H Horse Certificate allows an optional process of defining the horse exhibitor's project animal(s). By completing a horse certificate exhibitors can replace their project until the completion of vet check.

1. *Each 4-H member shall complete a 4-H Horse Certificate (Publication CO233) for each horse that is under the regular care and management of the member.*
2. *Each member and horse that is registered on a 4-H Horse Certificate, must attend and pass an approved Horse Council clinic. Approved clinic classes include one showmanship class and two riding classes in the discipline the member will be participating in at county fair.*
3. *In the event that the member chooses to replace their primary horse with another of their enrolled, certificated project horse(s), the member must contact the horse superintendent and club leader and complete "Exhibitor's Request to Change Horse" (ERCH form) prior to vet check. The replacement horse must have a current 4-H Horse Certificate on file (inclusive of clinic dates/classes attended)*

Part III. 4-H Equine Appeal and Replacement Process

The animal ownership appeal process is intended to hear cases of hardship, in which a qualified project animal has suffered severe injury or death prior to the deadline determined by the 4H General Council and permission is being sought to use a replacement animal (not meeting horse certificate, clinic, and ownership qualifications).

1. *In the event that the member's primary horse is unable to compete due to injury, death, or unsafe behavior and does not have a 4-H Horse Certificate on file for the possible replacement horse, the member must contact the horse superintendent and club leader and complete "Exhibitor's Request to Change Horse" (ERCH form) prior to the appeal deadline.*
2. *If the exhibitor requests to change a horse prior to the appeal deadline (see premium guide) and has attended and passed an approved clinic but does not have a 4-H Horse Certificate on file for the substitute horse, and the horse has been in the regular care and management from May 1, then the exhibitor may have the option to participate at fair at the discretion of the appeal board. The exhibitor will not be eligible for grand and reserve and may not be eligible for the state team in the riding classes ridden at fair.*
3. *If the exhibitor requests to change a horse prior to the appeal deadline (see premium guide) and has attended and passed an approved clinic, does not have a horse certificate and the horse is not in the care and management of the exhibitor, then the exhibitor may have the option to participate at fair at the discretion of the appeal board. The exhibitor will not be eligible for grand and reserve and may not be eligible for the state team in the riding classes ridden at fair.*

**GRAYS HARBOR 4-H HORSE COUNCIL
EXHIBITORS REQUEST TO CHANGE HORSE**

Exhibitor Name:	Date:
Contact Telephone Number:	E-Mail:
Club:	Club Leader:
Contact Telephone Number:	E-Mail:
Name of Horse to be Replaced:	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Lease <input type="checkbox"/> Boarded
Reason for request to change horse (please be specific)	
Name of Horse to be Exhibited:	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Lease <input type="checkbox"/> Boarded
Is horse in your possession?	If so, possession date:
Has replacement horse been handled, ridden, or shown by a trainer or any another competitor within the past ninety days? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Please Name Person(s) and Events:	
Is replacement horse identified on exhibitor's 4-H Horse Certificate: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Has exhibitor passed an approved clinic on the replacement horse in appropriate discipline: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date:	
Has replacement horse been in the regular care and management of the exhibitor for more than 90 days? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Other Notes:	
Submitted By:	Date Form Submitted:
Parent/Guardian Signature:	Club Leader Signature:
Reviewed By:	Appeal Board/Superintendent Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Decision: <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement horse meets the requirement and is eligible to be shown at county and state fair <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement horse meets the requirement and is eligible to be shown at county fair and not state fair <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement horse does not meet the requirement and is not eligible to be shown at county fair	
Return to horse superintendent after decision is made.	