

4-H/Open Horse and Livestock Show Sponsorship

This document is meant to clarify the acceptable 4-H Horse show management and relationship with non 4-H horse shows. It is our responsibility as 4-H professionals to provide as much clarity to our 4-H volunteers to reduce risk to them personally and to OSU Extension, Ohio/County 4-H program, 4-H clubs and 4-H affiliates and to our employees. Please review the bullet points below and share with your volunteers. Most all of these rules would also be synonymous with any type of 4-H/Open livestock show management.

- 4-H professionals should **not** be approving 4-H Club fund raisers that consist of horse shows that include non 4-H approved classes.
- Additional fun classes and walk/trot classes **can** be included in a 4-H horse show if they do not directly conflict with 4-H rules such as participant age, acceptable tack, required helmet, condition of equine, etc. All participants must be properly saddled and no more than one participant should be allowed on one horse at a time.
- Open shows **can** be conducted with 4-H horse shows but must be clearly separated on two separate show bills. The Open show bill must clearly identify the show sponsor and this sponsor must **not** be a 4-H club or affiliate.
- 4-H clubs and affiliates should purchase additional liability insurance or ascertain that shows they sponsor have liability coverage, including horse shows.
- We encourage the show sponsor to purchase accident insurance for participants and volunteers. A pre-entry would be necessary to obtain accident coverage for participants. Accident insurance can usually be purchased for non 4-H shows but all must realize that a member whose only coverage is the yearly 4-H policy will not have coverage during non 4-H shows/classes.
- Volunteer liability coverage only exists when the volunteer is working within their scope and duties at a 4-H sponsored show.
- Volunteers must understand that if there is an open show being held in conjunction with a 4-H show that their liability coverage is not active during the open show classes.
- Non 4-H members such as Vo-ag members or other youth meeting the 4-H age requirements may participate (with show sponsor approval) in a 4-H sponsored show as long as they abide by all 4-H rules including the wearing of protective headgear.

