LAKE COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM

HANDBOOK
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1 PREFACE

The 4-H Horse Program provides an opportunity for youth to participate in activities designed to improve citizenship, sportsmanship, horsemanship, discipline, and responsibility, while creating an atmosphere for learning and building friendships. 4-H membership in the horse program is available to all youth ages 8-18 without regard to race, color, sex, handicap, or national origin. Note: youth ages 5-7 may enroll in 4-H, but may not enroll in a large animal project.

Activities offered through the 4-H Horse Program provide physical, mental, social and emotional growth experiences for individual 4-H members. The Lake County 4-H Horse Program offers competitive and non-competitive learning activities as part of a balanced non-formal educational program.
2 INTRODUCTION

The 4-H Horse Program is managed and operated by the Lake County Extension Service. The 4-H Agent oversees the program and is responsible for the program’s content and execution.

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2.1 Definition of Terms

4-H Program Year The 4-H year starts September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year. 4-H enrollment and participation revolve around this 4-H program year definition.

Cloverbud Participants Cloverbud refers to participants 5 through 7 years of age as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. Cloverbuds may not enroll in a large animal project.

Junior Participants Junior refers to participants 8 through 10 years of age as of September 1 of the current 4-H year.

Intermediate Participants Intermediate refers to participants 11 through 13 years of age as of September 1 of the current 4-H year.

Senior Participants The Senior division begins at age 14, as of September 1 of the current 4-H year, and the 4-Her must not have passed his/her 19th birthday or graduated from High School as of September 1 of the current 4-H year.

Project A series of learning experiences within an area of interest. Members learn and then share what they’ve learned. A 4-H project is what a 4-Her learns, creates, or acts out. For example: learning to grow a garden, making a dress, or managing an animal.

Horse Project A large animal project that requires the 4-Hers lease/ownership and care of a horse. This would include any supporting events and activities in the large animal projects.
Love A Horse Project

A 4-H supported activity for youth ages 8 through 18 as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. Participation in this project does not require ownership or lease of a horse.

Demonstration or Illustrated Talk

A “show and tell” presentation in a specific curriculum area, using posters and other visual aids to communicate presentation content.

Speech

A talk given without the use of props, posters, or visual aids.

2.2 The Horse Project

A horse project requires the 4-Her’s ownership/lease and care of a horse. A 4-Her undertaking the horse project is eligible to participate in any events related to the horse project providing the participant meets all the qualifications of attendance. These events include, but are not limited to:

- County 4-H Horse Events
- Area-D 4-H Horse Show
- State 4-H Horse Show
- Regional 4-H Horse Show
- 4-H Horsemanship School

Rules and regulations governing District and State 4-H Horse Shows can be found in Florida 4-H Horse Show Official Rules published by the University of Florida IFAS Extension Service.

Rules and regulations governing the Regional Horse Show can be found in Southern Regional 4-H Horse Show Rules & Regulations.

Information about the 4-H Horsemanship School can be obtained from the County Extension 4-H Agent.

2.2.1 Record Books

The following record books may be completed by 4-H’ers involved in the horse project.

**Florida 4-H Horse Project Record Book** (4H SR 02) –

This record book may be completed by any 4-H’er who owns or leases a horse or pony. The completion of this book is required for all members who wish to participate in the Lake County Qualifier 4-H Show and beyond.

**Beginner Horseman Record Book** –

The “Beginner Horseman” record book is intended for 4-H members who either own or lease a horse or pony, or who are involved in the care and handling of a horse or pony.
National Horse Curriculum –
These horse project manuals provide an interactive curriculum for youth that is hands-on and grounded solidly in subject matter. Youth will develop life skills while exploring horse science. Leaders also have a helpers guide available for their use while working alongside youth.

**Level 1 - Giddy Up & Go** explores breed identification, horse body parts, selection, grooming, saddling and bridling, design the perfect horse, safety and equipment. Designed for ages 8-10. Available through National 4-H Council.


**Level 4 - Riding the Range** explores beginning riding skills and everything you need to know before getting on a horse for the first time. Some of the activities are round pen workout, bridle in a bucket, saddle up, where do you ride and basic riding. Designed for ages 14-18. Available through National 4-H Council.

**Level 5 - Jumping to New Heights** explores the quarter system, showmanship, self-rating sheets, goal selection and sportsmanship. Designed for ages 14-18. Available through National 4-H Council.

### 2.3 Love A Horse Project

The Love A Horse Project is a 4-H activity for youth ages 8 through 18 as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. Participation in this project does not require ownership or lease of a horse. The project is designed to encourage youth to enjoy and learn about horses.

The *Horse Lover* (4H490) record book should be completed by members enrolled in this project. A leaders guide is available to adult leaders of this project, which aides the leader in developing and conducting learning experiences for enrolled youth.

### 2.4 Competitive Horse Related Activities Not Requiring Ownership/Lease of a Horse

Horse related activities which do not require ownership or lease of a horse include but are not limited to:

- Individual Demonstration
- Team Demonstration (2 people)
- Public Speaking
- Horse Judging
- Hippology
- Horse Bowl
- Skill-a-thon

*Note: Activities will depend on volunteers’ availability and youth participation.*
2.5 General Horse Rules

- SEI approved helmets and appropriate footwear must be worn at all times by all 4-Her’s while mounted and participating in an activity/event related to 4-H. Example of 4-H activities/events include but are not limited to: clinics, trail rides, horse shows and club activities.
- The 4-H office must have a negative coggins on file prior to the November and March horse show. Furthermore, 4-Hers must present their coggins form at registration the morning of each horse show in order to be eligible to compete.
- Participation in parades by 4-Her’s with their horses (mounted or led) is strictly prohibited.

3 REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE 4-H HORSE PROGRAM

3.1 General Requirements

All youth participating in 4-H horse program must be enrolled and active in a chartered 4-H club. Member must have all required enrollment forms on file with the County Extension Office prior to the youth’s participation in any 4-H activity. Attend certain activities may have additional requirements.

3.2 Lake County Requirements

3.2.1. The Horse Project

1. The member must meet all the general requirements for participation in the 4-H horse program.

2. The enrollment form must declare participation in the “Horse” project.

3. Youth must enroll in a 4-H club or make arrangements with the 4-H agent to enroll at-large. Please contact the 4-H office for a complete list of 4-H clubs in Lake County.

4. The member is obligated to adhere to the rules and regulations set by the Horse Club Leader. Horse Club activities include regular meetings and educational activities which promote fellowship, leadership, and horsemanship. Attend at least 50% of the club meetings.

5. All project animals must be owned or leased by the 4-H member. All rules and regulations set forth in the Florida State 4-H Horse Show Official Rules regarding ownership and lease of a project animal must be met.

6. All project animals must be declared by submitting a Lake County 4-H Horse Project Registration Form for each project animal. This form must be in the Lake County 4-H
Office by the 3rd Monday in December of each year by 4:00 p.m.

7. If the project animal is leased, the member(s) must complete the 4-H Horse and Pony Lease Agreement. This form must be filed with the Lake County 4-H Office by the 3rd Monday of December each year.

8. A 4-H member may manage more than one project animal. All rules and regulations regarding ownership/lease and records apply to each project animal. One record book may be maintained for all project animals or a different project record book may be maintained for each project animal.

9. Additional requirements exist for members who wish to participate in the Lake County 4-H Qualifier Show and beyond. Refer to show specific information.

3.2.2 Love a Horse Project

1. The member must meet all the general requirements for participation in the 4-H horse program.
2. The enrollment form must declare participation in the “Love a Horse” project.
3. Youth must enroll in a 4-H club or make arrangements with the 4-H agent to enroll at-large. Please contact the 4-H office for a complete list of 4-H clubs in Lake County.
4. The member is obligated to adhere to the rules and regulations set by the Horse Club Leader. Horse Club activities include regular meetings and educational activities which promote fellowship, leadership, and horsemanship.

3.2.3. Competitive Horse Related Activities Not Requiring Ownership/Lease of a Horse

Individual demonstration, team demonstration, public speaking, horse judging, hippology, horse bowl and skill-a-thon are all competitive events not requiring ownership or lease of a horse. Lake County requirements for participation in these events are as follows:

1. The member must meet all general requirements for participation in the 4-H horse program.
2. The member must meet all district, regional, or national requirements for participation in the specific competitive events.
3. In the case where participation is limited, the 4-H agent or coach will use the team selection criteria explained in appendix A.
4. The activity coach develops the education curriculum for the activity with consideration given to materials available through the Florida Cooperative Extension Service.
4 LAKE COUNTY 4-H SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

To help support the Lake County 4-H Horse Program, members are asked to seek donations from businesses/individuals at the beginning of each 4-H year. In appreciation of the donations, the businesses/individuals are given space in the Lake County 4-H/Rotary Horse Show and Lake County 4-H Qualifier Horse Show sponsorship books.

In this space, individuals/businesses can choose to promote their business or write a personal message. All pictures/photos that are included in the 4-H/Rotary and Lake County 4-H Qualifier Horse Show sponsorship books must meet 4-H standards and rules. If individuals present in the photo are in saddle they MUST be wearing a helmet. The 4-H office reserves the right to refuse pictures/personal ads that do not meet 4-H rules, policies, best practices and code of conduct. The amount of space they receive in the sponsorship book is based on the amount of their donation.

Donation Amount = Space Provided

$15 = Business Card
$30 = ¼ Page
$50 = ½ Page
$100 = Full Page

Members, who participate in at least one 4-H horse activity, will receive 25% of the money they collect back to help support their own project. This money will be given to the 4-Her at the end of the year. Members are encouraged to raise as much money as possible, as this is the only form of sponsorship the Lake County 4-H Horse Program provides.

If special circumstances arise and a member is unable to attend a 4-H horse event without their 25% payback, 4-H Agent may choose to distribute the 4-Her’s money at the time of the event.

If sufficient funds exist, the Lake County 4-H Horse Advisory may recommend to the 4-H Agent that the county discontinue participation in the sponsorship program that particular year.
5 HORSE ADVANCEMENT SERIES

Florida’s 4-H Horse Advancement Program encourages planned, systematic and self-motivated learning by 4-H members. Its purpose is to:

- provide guidelines to help members set realistic project goals
- motivate self learning
- divide members into interest and ability levels
- broaden member experiences and help them develop both life skills and project skills
- provide a planned learning approach for members
- serve as a way of recognizing members for completion of project goals

There are four levels to Florida’s Horse Advancement Program. They are:

- Level I Basic Horseman
- Level II Novice Horseman
- Level III Intermediate Horseman
- Level IV Advanced Horseman

Refer to http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_4h_program_horse_advancement for all publications (including Leaders Guide) relative to the Horse Advancement Program.

The advancement levels are written so there is a planned learning sequence for all members. Each member should start with Level I, the Basic Horseman. It is recommended that a member be at least 8 years old to complete Level I, 10 years old to complete Level II, 13 years old to complete Level III, and 16 or older to complete Level IV.

The Advancement Program is designed so a 4-H member may progress as quickly as he or she desires based on interest, effort and ability. Members may work on sections in two or more levels at the same time; completing each level as the appropriate age requirement is met.

This program area is an optional activity for 4-Hers that own or lease a horse. This is not considered a project record book and may be turned in any time throughout the year. These books do not require traditional record book items (story, pictures, activities, etc.)
6 COUNTY 4-H HORSE EVENTS

6.1 Skill-a-thon

This event is held once during the 4-H year. The date and location for the event varies year to year. A skill-a-thon is a test of skill in which various questions are asked at a series of stations. This is an individual competition and is broken down into two age divisions – Junior, Intermediate and Senior.

The content for the skill-a-thon is based on the Ohio State University Horse Kit, which is in the Lake County 4-H Office and available for all clubs to check-out. If other resource material is used, a study guide will be made available at least one month in advance of the contest.

6.2 Educational Clinics

Lake County 4-H Horse Clubs are encouraged to hold at least one educational event/clinic per 4-H year. Participation in these clinics helps youth to gain a deeper understanding of the project. The Lake County 4-H Program may offer educational clinics at the county level based on available resources and demand.

6.3 County Horse Shows

The Lake County 4-H Horse Program sponsors two county horse shows. The 4-H/Rotary Horse Show, which is held in November, and the Qualifying 4-H Horse Show, which is held in March of each 4-H year.

The 4-H/Rotary Horse Show and the Qualifying 4-H Horse Show will follow the rules of the Florida 4-H Area-D and State Horse Show Rulebook, additional rules may be implemented at the discretion of the county agent.

Rules to note

• All rules are in effect from the time participants enter the show grounds until the time they leave.
• Members are not allowed to ride horses in the parking areas. Warm-up and/or lunging is only permitted in designated areas.
• The show committee reserves the right to cancel or combine classes.
• No alcoholic beverages are permitted on the show grounds.
• Refunds will be issued if a class is canceled by the committee or if an exhibitor provides a written doctor/vet excuse. Refunds will not be issued at the show.
• Show committee must be alerted of any tack changes five (5) classes prior.
• No limit is placed on the number of classes a 4-H member and project animal may enter. However, if the project animal shows signs of distress or excessive fatigue the Grievance Committee may rule to disqualify the animal.
• Exhibitors may not enter the same class twice, regardless of horse/rider combination.
• Youth may not ride double on any horse while on show grounds.
• Good sportsmanship, considerate treatment of animals and courtesy to officials and other
participants and spectators is expected from all exhibitors and spectators. Should a lapse occur, the person in question may be disqualified or asked to leave show grounds, at the discretion of the Grievance Committee. All entry fees will be forfeited.

- The decisions of the Grievance Committee are final. The Grievance Committee will be composed of the Show Chairman, the 4-H Agent and/or the Livestock Agent and/or their representative and at least one Horse Club Leader/Volunteer.
- Donkeys and Mules are welcome at Lake County horse show but at this time they might not move on to Area D.

Trail Classes:
The trail class will consist of a number of obstacles and maneuvers. Trail is not offered in the walk-trot division but the pattern may call for a combination of only walk/jog or walk/jog/lope.

Walk-trot Eligibility:
Riders who wish to participate in the walk-trot division may not have loped/cantered in any class in any prior show. Walk-trot eligibility is based on the rider not horse/rider combination. 4-Her’s may not enter walk-trot and walk-trot-canter classes at one show.

6.3.1. 4-H/Rotary Horse Show

Hunter Hack: Youth may only enter Class #27 or #28; may not enter both hunter hack classes. Class #27 will be cross rails.

Walk-trot Speed: In reference to walk-trot speed classes, riders who exhibit a “break of gait” into the canter will be disqualified.

Walk-trot Gymkhana: Possible classes include: egg and spoon race, musical feed sacks, ride a buck, obstacle course or Simon says. Specific class description will be given prior to registration deadline.

The class list for the 4-H/Rotary Horse Show is as follows:

1. Grooming & Conditioning
2. Mares at Halter
3. Geldings at Halter
   Grand and Reserve
4. Youth Showmanship 8-13
5. Youth Showmanship 14-18
6. Walk-trot Western Horsemanship 8-13
7. Walk-trot Western Horsemanship 14-18
8. Walk-trot Western Pleasure 8-13
9. Walk-trot Western Pleasure 14-18
10. Youth Western Horsemanship 8-13
11. Youth Western Horsemanship 14-18
12. Western Pleasure Jr. Horse (5yrs. & under) 8-18
13. Western Pleasure Sr. Horse (6yrs. & over) 8-18
14. Trail 8-13
15. Trail 14-18
16. In Hand
17. Walk-trot English Equitation 8-13
18. Walk-trot English Equitation 14-18
20. Walk-trot English Pleasure 14-18
21. Youth English Equitation 8-13
22. Youth English Equitation 14-18
23. Youth English Pleasure 8-13
24. Youth English Pleasure 14-18
25. Show Hack 8-18
26. Road Hack 8-18
27. Jump Warm-up
28. Beginner Hunter Hack 18” 8-18
29. Youth Hunter Hack 2’3” 8-18
30. Youth Cloverleaf Barrel Race 8-13
31. Youth Cloverleaf Barrel Race 14-18
32. Walk-trot Youth Cloverleaf Barrel Race 8-13
33. Walk-trot Youth Cloverleaf Barrel Race 14-18
34. Walk-trot gymkhana 8-13
35. Walk-trot gymkhana 13-18
36. Youth Pole bending 8-13
37. Youth Pole bending 14-18
38. Youth Stake Race 8-13
39. Youth Stake Race 14-18
40. Youth Keyhole 8-13
41. Youth Keyhole 14-18

6.3.2. Qualifying Horse Show

In order to compete in the Qualifying Horse Show, members must adhere to the following requirements. Refer to Appendix B Lake County 4-H Requirements for Showing for further information.

- Member must complete all necessary requirements as stated in the Lake County 4-H Requirements for Showing.
- Rider may compete with more than one horse, but all competing horses must be registered 4-H project horses. Only the declared project horse can go on to the Area D show and this project horse must be shown at the qualifying show in order to advance to the next level.
- Show Hack & Road Hack: Road Hack is designed for members showing in Saddleseat attire. Show Hack is for members showing in English attire, EXCLUDING Saddleseat. Members may not enter both classes.
The class list for the Lake County 4-H Qualifier Horse Show is as follows:

1. Grooming & Conditioning
2. Mares at Halter
3. Geldings at Halter

   *Grand and Reserve*
4. Youth Showmanship 8-13
5. Youth Showmanship 14-18
6. Walk-trot Western Horsemanship 8-13
7. Walk-trot Western Horsemanship 14-18
8. Walk-trot Western Pleasure 8-13
9. Walk-trot Western Pleasure 14-18
10. Youth Western Horsemanship 8-13
11. Youth Western Horsemanship 14-18
12. Western Pleasure Pony (13.2 hands & under) 8-18
13. Western Pleasure Jr. Horse (5yrs. & under) 8-18
14. Western Pleasure Sr. Horse (6yrs. & over) 8-18
15. Western Riding 8-18
16. Reining 8-18
17. Trail 8-13
18. Trail 14-18
19. Mini Equine in hand Trail 8-18
20. Walk-trot English Equitation 8-13
21. Walk-trot English Equitation 14-18
22. Walk-trot English Pleasure 8-13
23. Walk-trot English Pleasure 14-18
24. Youth English Equitation 8-13
25. Youth English Equitation 14-18
26. Pony English Pleasure (14.2 hands & under) 8-18
27. Youth English Pleasure 8-13
28. Youth English Pleasure 14-18
29. Show Hack 8-18
30. Road Hack 8-18
31. Jump Warm-up
32. Youth Hunter Hack 2’3” 8-18
33. Youth Cloverleaf Barrel Race 8-13
34. Youth Cloverleaf Barrel Race 14-18
35. Youth Pole bending 8-13
36. Youth Pole bending 14-18
37. Youth Stake Race 8-13
38. Youth Stake Race 14-18
39. Youth Keyhole 8-13
40. Youth Keyhole 14-18

* Dressage may be offered
7 END OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Lake County 4-H Horse Program hosts an end of the year awards night each summer. Youth are rewarded for their participation throughout the 4-H year. The following awards will be given out each year.

**High-point** – a high-point and reserve high-point award will be given to the exhibitors with the most points accumulated at the Rotary Horse Show and the Lake County 4-H Qualifying Show in the following divisions:

In-hand (Junior/Intermediate)
- Showmanship
- Halter
- Grooming

In-hand (Senior)
- Showmanship
- Halter
- Grooming

Western
- Junior Highpoint & Reserve
- Senior Highpoint & Reserve

English
- Junior Highpoint & Reserve
- Senior Highpoint & Reserve

Speed
- Junior Highpoint & Reserve
- Senior Highpoint & Reserve

Overall Junior
- Highpoint & Reserve

Overall Senior
- Highpoint & Reserve
For the purpose of horse showing recognition, points will be awarded to participants in the Rotary Horse Show and the Lake County 4-H Qualifying Show. Points are awarded to horse and rider combination. Points will be awarded on a graduated scale based on number of entries in the class up to a maximum of 6 points for first place.

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In a case of ties, the following priority order will be used:
1. Most points earned in performance classes.
2. Total number of horses beaten in any one class.
3. The horse with the highest placings.

**Horse Project Spirit Award** – awarded to all individuals enrolled in a horse project that meets at least four of the seven following requirements:

1. Participate in the Rotary Horse Show **AND** the Lake County 4-H Qualifier Show
2. Compete in the Hippology, Horse Bowl, **OR** Horse Judging Contest
3. Participate in the Horse Skill-a-thon
4. Attend at least one 4-H county level educational activity
5. Present a County Events Day Horse Project Demonstration or Horse Public Speaking
6. Receive a Blue Award on their Horse Project Record Book
7. Complete Level I, II, III, or IV of the Member Advancement Program
**Non-owner Spirit Award** – given to those “horse lovers” enrolled in a horse related project (such as Love a Horse) who meet at least three of the five following requirements:

1. Receive a blue award on a horse project record book
2. Compete in Hippology, Horse Bowl, OR Horse Judging Contest
3. Participate in the Horse Skill-a-thon
4. Attend at least one county level educational activity
5. Present a County Events Day Horse Project Demonstration or Horse Public Speaking

**Most Active Club** – presented to the club that earned the most points based upon the following:

5 points – Leader/adult at County Horse Advisory Meetings
2 points – Leader/adult at Area-D Horse Advisory Meetings
1 point – Club representatives working at County Shows
1 point – Participation in each of the above spirit events

**Horse Skill-a-thon** – The junior/intermediate and senior receiving the highest score on the skill-a-thon will receive an award.
The Lake County Horse Advisory is a part of the county extension program. The advisory is organized for the purpose of providing advice and assistance with the planning, legitimization, implementation, accountability and advocacy of 4-H horse program outcomes. The Horse Advisory is NOT a policy making body, even though they provide valuable input. The Horse Advisory’s role is to advise, assist and support the county 4-H agent. The Horse Advisory serves as an intermediary between the various county horse clubs and the 4-H agent, offering ideas and opinions that will lead to the continued positive development of the Lake County 4-H Horse Program. Meetings are open to leaders and parents of horse club participants. Each club, with a minimum of three members participating in the horse program, must have an adult representative at each horse advisory meeting. In non-horse clubs, those having two or less participants, the parents of horse participants are responsible for knowing and understanding horse related information. Advisory attendance is encouraged to these individuals.

The Lake County 4-H Horse Advisory meets once during the months of September, January, and May. Additional meetings may be called if necessary. The meetings are held at the 4-H Office at 5:00 P.M.
Appendix A: Competitive Team Opportunities

**Horse Judging:** In Horse Judging, youth learn to evaluate a horse's form as it relates to function, and compare it to the ideal as well as to other horses. The added benefit is that it gives youth the opportunity to sharpen their decision making skills and their ability to defend those decisions. The State 4-H Horse Judging Contest is held in Gainesville in the covered arena at UF's Horse Teaching Unit. First and second place teams in State 4-H Horse Judging will earn the right to compete at the Regional competition (sites vary each year throughout the southeast). The first place team at the State contest is also eligible to compete at Eastern Nationals in Louisville, KY in November. Further horse judging opportunities around the state include the State Fair Horse Judging Contest and the State Horse Judging School.

*Practice Begins:* Fall  
*Ages:* Seniors (14-18 as of September 1) younger youth are encouraged to participate but are not able to compete at state. JR and INT 4-Hers can compete in the Horse Judging event at the Florida State Fair.

**Hippology:** Hippology is an activity that can enhance learning for 4-H members by letting them exhibit their knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry in a competitive setting. The term "Hippology" comes from the Greek "hippo", meaning horse, and "ology", meaning "the study of". Participants will be able to demonstrate their experience and knowledge gained in horse judging, quiz bowl, speeches, and practical horse management. Phases of the contest include a written exam, identification of items shown on slides, placing and/or ID of feedstuffs or feed tags, judging, ID stations, and team problems. The State Hippology Contest is held in Orlando at the Orange County Extension Office. First and second place teams in the State 4-H Hippology Contest will earn the right to compete at the Regional competition (sites vary each year throughout the southeast). The first place team at the State contest is also eligible to compete at Eastern Nationals in Louisville, KY in November.

*Practice Begins:* Late Fall  
*Ages:* Intermediates (11-13) and Seniors (14-18) as of September 1, however, only Seniors are able to advance past the state level.

**Quiz Bowl:** This double elimination quiz bowl contest offers horse club members the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and earn the right to represent Florida at the regional and national competition.

*Practice Begins:* Spring  
*Ages:* Seniors (14-18 as of September 1), younger members are encouraged to participate but are not eligible to compete at state.

**Competitive Team Selection Criteria:**

All interested 4-H members are encouraged to participate in competitive team activities and will
have an equal opportunity to represent Lake County at state, regional and national competitions. If more than four youth are interested in competing on one team, then competitive team members will be appointed by that team’s coach using the following criteria:

50%: Attendance and active participation at practices and work-outs  
25%: Cumulative scores  
25%: Practice contest scores

Appendix B: Lake County 4-H Horse Show Requirements

Lake County 4-H Horse Program
Requirements for Showing

4-H is a youth development organization, not a horse show organization. There are many exhibiting opportunities for you in the 4-H Horse Program, participating in horse shows is just one of those opportunities. In order for youth to get the most out of their 4-H experience, the following are required of participants to compete in the County Qualifier, Area, State, and/or Regional Horse Shows. **It is the not the responsibility of the 4-H Leader or 4-H parents to ensure that these requirements are met, but that of the member.** Failure to meet the guidelines and deadlines will result in disqualification from show participation.

**Membership:**
1. 4-H’ers must be 8 years of age or older as of September 1\(^{st}\) of the current 4-H year to participate in large animal projects (this includes all equines, including miniature horses)
2. All enrollment paperwork must be completed/signed and in the 4-H Office by 4:00 P.M. on the 3\(^{rd}\) Monday of December of current 4-H year. This includes enrollment forms, Lake County 4-H Requirements for Showing Statement of Understanding, horse project registration forms and lease forms (if applicable).
3. Manage the care of at least one horse of any age or breed as a 4-H Horse Project. Members may manage & show more than one horse at the County Qualifier Horse Show, but you will only be able to show one horse at the Area Show. The horse that is shown at the Area show is the only horse eligible for the State show.

**Ownership & Leasing:**
1. Horses/ponies must be owned prior to January 1\(^{st}\) of the current 4-H year. A completed 4-H Project Registration Form must be on file in the 4-H Office by the 3\(^{rd}\) Monday of December of current 4-H year. **No Exceptions**.
2. Leased horses are permitted with the following:
   - A certified and notarized lease & 4-H Project Registration Form are on file by 4:00 P.M. on the 3\(^{rd}\) Monday of December of current 4-H year.
   - Dual leasing is allowed with approval of the State Office.
**Participation:**

1. Member must attend a minimum of 50% of their 4-H Club meetings during the current 4-H year. All youth must be members prior to the 3rd **Monday of December of current 4-H year**, if they wish to participate in the qualifier show. Youth who join after the 3rd **Monday of December of current 4-H year** will not be eligible for the qualifier, area or state shows until the following year.

2. Members must present a demonstration on a project they are currently enrolled in (does not have to be horse). While demonstrations may be given on the club level, all members are encouraged to present their speeches or demonstrations at **County Events**.

3. Members must complete 4-H Horse Project Book 4HHSR02 on their project animal prior to the Area Horse Show. Please note these record books are due earlier than other 4-H record books. It is the responsibility of the member to know when this deadline is each year. Deadline for record book submission varies annually, please reference the current 4-H year calendar. Late books will not be accepted for any reason.

4. Members must participate in at least one of the following **Non-Horse Show** 4-H activities prior to the County Qualifier registration deadline:

   - 4-H Camp Ocala
   - Team Leadership Council Meeting
   - County Events Day
   - Fashion Revue
   - Share the Fun
   - Pizza Social
   - TLC County Christmas Party

   **Please be sure to stay updated on dates for above events. All event dates are subject to change and may not always occur before the County Qualifier deadline. Do not wait until the last minute to complete this requirement, as there may not be an activity available for you to attend.**

5. It is the responsibility of 4-H members to know and follow the rules and guidelines stated in the current Florida State 4-H Horse Show Official Rule Book and additional requirements set forth by Lake County. These additional requirements can be found in the Lake County 4-H Horse Program Policies and Procedures. Copies are available on the Lake County 4-H website. **In order to participate in the Area Show, youth must have exhibited their project horse in at least one Qualifier class.**

6. Only those horses shown at Area can be shown at State. Counties can allow for the substitution of a project horse prior to the Area Show only if a veterinarian certifies the horse/pony is physically unsound. Approval of the 4-H Agent is required for any substitution. Substituted horses must meet all the horse project criteria other than the January 1st ownership date. See the Florida 4-H Horse Show Rule Book for details.
7. Lake County 4-H Horse Program Required Meetings

**Exhibitor Meeting:** Safety, showing requirement and county policies and procedures will be discussed at exhibitor meetings. All 4-H youth who wish to participate at the County Qualifier, Area, State, and Regional Horse Shows must attend one of the following Exhibitor Meetings annually with their parent. Exhibitor meetings will be held in January and February of each year, please reference the current 4-H calendar for dates and times. Parents with legitimate excuses who cannot attend the meeting need to contact the 4-H Agent prior to 4:00 P.M. the day of the meeting. *Members must attend an exhibitor meeting every year.*

8. Your club may add additional requirements. Please check with your Club Leader and add these below. They must also be met in order to show:

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Acknowledgement of Receipt
and Statement of Understanding of
Florida 4-H Area & State Horse Shows
Official Rules 2012

- I hereby acknowledge receipt of the *Florida 4-H Area & State Horse Shows Official Rules 2012* (hereafter referred to as the Area & State Rule Book).

- I understand that the rules stated in the Area and State Rule Book will be strictly enforced at the 2012 Area and State 4-H Horse Shows.

- I acknowledge that I am responsible for understanding the rules stated in the Area and State Rule Book and agree to comply with the rules.

- I understand that failure to comply with the rules stated in the Area and State Rule Book may result in disciplinary action or disqualification.

- I understand that any bit that I use at the Area and State shows must meet the requirements in the Rule Book “as is”. I understand that unacceptable bits will NOT be able to be wrapped or otherwise altered to make them acceptable.

Participant Signature _______________________________ Date ______________

Parent/Guardian Signature _______________________________ Date ______________
Lake County 4-H Horse Program Requirements for Showing
Statement of Understanding

**Please detach and sign this final page, and submit with your horse project registration paperwork**

I have read these guidelines and understand what the requirements are in order to show as a Lake County 4-H Member. I realize that if I do not meet these requirements, I will not be eligible to advance to the County Qualifier Horse Show. I also agree to exhibit good sportsmanship and a friendly competitive spirit when participating in 4-H shows and activities.

I will abide by the rules of the show and conduct myself in a sportsman like manner. I will accept the decision of the judge as final. I will make my trainer aware of the 4-H rules and guidelines. I know that by trying my best I am a winner even if I do not place first!

________________________________________        _________________________________
Parent Signature                                      4-H Member Signature

Name of Club: __________________________________     Date: ______________________

Received by:____________________ on _________________