

# NC 4-H Horse Program Eligibility Card

## Standard Operating Procedures

### Eligibility Card Completion Instructions for 4-H Agents, Volunteer Leaders, Parents and 4-H'ers:

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1. All 4-H'ers wishing to show in 4-H horse shows for the current year must complete an eligibility card for each horse they intend on showing.
2. The Eligibility Card information (name, address, horse's information, etc.) should be completed by the 4-H'er and their parent/guardian and can be filled out by typing the information into the typable PDF document or by hand. The pony measurement section will be completed by a certified measurer at the qualifying show. If the pony has a permanent USEF or NCHJA card, that must be presented to the certified measurer at the qualifying show so they can complete the appropriate check boxes and sign.
3. The 4-H'er and parent/guardian must also declare on the eligibility card (in the bottom right hand corner) which qualifying show they will be attending. For 2016, youth may show at any of the four qualifying shows, but can only show at one qualifying show per year. ***Once it is declared for the year, it cannot be changed.***
4. The parent/guardian should sign the card in the bottom left hand corner, followed by the volunteer leader (4-H club leader).
5. After the eligibility card has been completed in its entirety, it should be turned into the Extension Agent for verification and a final signature.
6. Extension agents need to make 2 copies of the completed cards.
  - 1 copy should be retained in the local 4-H office
  - 1 copy should be mailed to the State 4-H Horse Program office by **March 1** of the current year. The cards can be scanned and emailed to [lstroud@ncsu.edu](mailto:lstroud@ncsu.edu) or mailed to Extension Horse Husbandry, Box 7621 NCSU, Raleigh, NC 27695. The State office will compile a list of eligible 4-H'ers and the location of their declared qualifying show to share with qualifying show managers.
7. After copies have been made, the original card should be returned to the 4-H'er.
8. In the event a 4-H'er enrolls in 4-H after March 1, the county Extension Agent should contact the State 4-H Horse Program for updating their eligibility status and declaring a show.

### **North Carolina 4-H Horse Program Eligibility Card Rules**

1. This card may be used as a 4-H Measurement, Short Stirrup and Little Britches card. Retain as a record of your animal's official height and Short Stirrup or Little Britches Eligibility and as your 4-H eligibility for the current year and for future reference.
2. Ponies must be officially measured each year unless a permanent USEF Height Card **or NCHJA Pony Measurement Card can be provided.**
3. The Volunteer Leader must sign this eligibility card before the Extension Agent signs. Both signatures must be on card.
4. This card should be in possession of 4-H members when exhibiting their animals at any show to verify 4-H Horse Project eligibility.
5. Every 4-H'er must have a separate, current, complete eligibility card on every project horse he/she expects to participate with in current 4- H year.

***NC 4-H Horse Program Rules and Regulations Manual*** section on Eligibility Cards:

#### **I-C.4. Eligibility and Certification of Exhibitors**

**I-C.4.a. Membership.** Each exhibitor must be an active and participating member of a 4-H club and meet the requirements for membership as established by the local club or county program.

**I-C.4.b. Certification.** All eligible 4-H members will be given a 4-H Horse Project Card (an eligibility card) signed by their 4-H club leader and Extension agent. Rules for membership into the 4-H Horse Project will be determined by the county; however, the 4-H member is encouraged to participate in other 4-H events besides the 4-H horse show. It is the responsibility of the county Extension agent and horse club leader to certify the eligibility of their 4-H members, **including Little Britches status and Short-Stirrup status of the 4-H member. This information is to be verified and signed by the agent. Please note that 4-H members must obtain a separate eligibility card for each project horse they intend on showing for the current year.**

**I-C.4.c. Horse Ownership.** Each horse show exhibitor must manage at least one horse of any age or breed as a 4-H horsemanship project. It is recommended that the horse be owned by the 4-H member or his family. However, the horse can be owned by another person if the exhibitor meets the requirements of eligibility in item I-C.4.d. and is certified by his or her club leader and county Extension agent.

**I-C.4.d. Horse Care.** The horse must be managed and under the care of the 4-H member for 60 days prior to the District Horse Show. Project horses should not be trained on a regular daily basis by a professional within 60 days before competing in 4-H classes. **The definition of "regular care" in regards to eligibility for youth keeping a horse at a boarding barn or training facility is defined as "a trainer is not allowed to ride a 4-H member's horse more than 3 days per week within 60 days of a 4-H qualifying show".** Professional advice and instruction of the 4-H member is encouraged whenever possible. Such assistance can include occasional riding or

handling of the horse by the professional but cannot include regular daily training and care of the horse within 60 days of competition. Youths boarding their horses at public stables that feed their horses and clean their stalls are eligible to participate in 4-H horse shows if the 4-H members ride and care for the horses on a regular basis. The state Extension horse specialist's office will be glad to give advice and guidance when requested.

### **III-D. SHORT-STIRRUP DIVISION**

#### **III-D.1. Overview**

##### **Short Stirrup Eligibility:**

Classes in the division are open to 4-H members age 9 to 12 who are in their first two years of showing over fences. The division is specifically designed for inexperienced Junior riders in the Hunt Seat Division. Verification of a youth's eligibility is required by a volunteer leader. This division is a qualifying division at the qualifying shows.

### **III-H. LITTLE BRITCHES DIVISION**

#### **III-H.1. Overview**

##### **Little Britches Eligibility:**

Classes in the division are open to youths, ages 9 to 12, who are in their first two years of showing, *excluding Cloverbud Classes*. **The division is specifically designed for inexperienced Junior riders.** Verification of a youth's eligibility is required by a volunteer leader. This division is a qualifying division at the qualifying shows.