



4-H Horse Program Key Dates Agents Need to Know



- Our website link – <http://www.ext.vt.edu/youthhorse>
- To Subscribe to or Unsubscribe from the 4-H horse program listserv go to the link below and follow directions to add or delete your email
 - <http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/horse/horse-listserv.html>
- To find a list of all dates, including regional and state events, click on the PDF Calendar of Events in the right hand column. Also in this doc is the link for the Google Calendar.
- Details, deadlines and registration forms are listed under each individual competition or event link.
- Risk Management Policies – Equine
 - http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/horse/programs/files/risk_management.pdf
- 4-H Horse Program Facebook Page
 - <https://www.facebook.com/va4Hhorse>

Key Dates:

January 1: All 4-Her's must be enrolled in a club and horse project to be eligible for the State 4-H Horse Show in September

January: 4-H Horse Advisory Council and State Show Steering Committee Meetings

- The meeting is represented by 2 agents and 3 volunteer leaders from each district plus several at large members
- Charlottesville, VA

February: Block and Bridle Horse Judging and Hippology Contest

- Friday – Hippology, Saturday - Horse Judging
- Blacksburg, VA sponsored by the B&B Virginia Tech Students

Late March / early April: EquiSmartz contests

- State contests for ALL ages 9-19, Hippology, Horse Bowl, Horse Judging, and Communications (Public Speaking, Individual and Team Presentations – juniors may compete!)
- Top placing Seniors contestants are eligible for Southern Regionals, Eastern Nationals and the State Horse Judging Team
- Held at the Virginia Horse Festival in Doswell, VA at the Meadow Event Park

March – July: District Qualifying Shows, Clinics and Horsemanship Skills evaluations for State Show Eligibility

- Youth must qualify at a District show or clinic AND each horse/rider combination who is entering the State Show for the first time must pass Levels 1 and 2 of Horsemanship skills with the exception of seniors who have passed Levels 1 & 2 and have competed at the state show twice.

May 1: 4-H Project Animal Eligibility/Declaration Deadline

- Eligibility/Declaration hard copy document must be turned in to 4-H agent and information entered into online system to be eligible for the State 4-H Horse Show in September.

June: Mary Cole 50 Mile Horsemaster Trail Ride

- 20 4-Hers accepted
- Usually held the week prior to 4-H Congress from Sunday through Thursday
- Parent chaperones are required
- Location varies throughout the state. See our Facebook for photos.

July: State Show Championships Entry Deadline

- Entries due postmarked by agents on July 13
- Agents and leaders must approve and sign all entries for their county and mail by deadline as per the state show rulebook

July/August: Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships

- Must qualify for this contest from the previous year's State Show
- Juniors and Seniors may show at the Horse Show (and may cross enter divisions/disciplines).
- Top two Senior teams compete in Hippology, Horse Bowl, Horse Judging, Communications
- Perry, GA will be permanent location for the foreseeable future
- In addition, entries for VA State Fair show are due in August



September: State 4-H Championship Horse and Pony Show

- September 15-18, 2016 / September 14–17, 2017 / September 13–16, 2018
- Qualifying Criteria: Jan. 1 4-H member enrollment, age 10, qualify at show/clinic, skills test, record book, participation at other event, May 1 horse declaration, and any other county requirements (see state rulebook for details)
- Horseless Contests: T-shirt Design, Art, Photography, Horse Bowl, Hippology, Project Book and Portfolio, Stall Decorations contest, Stable Management evaluation.
- Cloverbud Camp on Friday and Saturday
- 600 youth limit, additional 200 in educational competitions
- Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA

October: State Fair 4-H Horse Show

- Drill Team competition, Ranch Riding Horse show and 4-H fun show
- Usually held the 2nd weekend of the State Fair (first weekend of October)
- Qualifying Criteria: same as for State Championship Show but may be age 9
- Location: State Fairgrounds at The Meadow Event Park, Doswell, Virginia

November: Eastern Nationals 4-H Competitions

- Senior State winners compete in Horse Bowl, Hippology, Horse Judging, Communications
- Held Friday through Sunday in early November
- Louisville, KY

November: Block and Bridle Horse Judging Clinic

- Blacksburg, VA sponsored by the B&B Virginia Tech Students

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