

Leasing FAQ's

1. How many people can show one horse?
It depends on whether they are immediate family members or not. Any number of immediate family members may show a single horse, although scheduling can become an issue and the horse may get tired. No more than two non-family members may share the use of a horse.
2. What is an "immediate" family member?
By definition, immediate family is the 4-H member's parents and siblings. In practice, however, who the member lives with, who is the legal guardian, step-relatives, etc. all need to be considered.
3. Can a 4-H member lease a horse if they already own a horse?
Yes.
4. Is there a limit to how many horses a 4-H member may lease?
No. Individual counties, however, may have rules about how many horses one person can show and which events a different horse can be used for.
5. If a 4-H member is using a horse that doesn't belong to his/her immediate family, is a lease agreement required?
Yes. Even if no money changes hands, a written agreement is necessary.
6. When are lease agreements due?
At least 90 days prior to your county fair. A copy should be turned in to the county extension office, and a copy should be kept in the member's 4-H records.
7. How long is the lease good for?
Generally for the length of the 4-H year (October through September). For 4-H purposes, a new lease agreement needs to be turned in each year. For intermediate and senior members, it is important that the lease allows them control of the horse through State Fair.
8. Is there a standard 4-H lease form we have to use?
No. In fact, since a lease agreement is a contract between private parties, the 4-H name or emblem cannot be used. Your county may provide a sample to follow, but no specific form can be required.

9. Can the lease agreement include clauses that are not in accordance with 4-H policy and/or philosophy?

This is a hard question. Legally, this is a private contract and can include whatever the owner wants and the lessee is willing to sign. Ethically, however, a lease agreement for a 4-H project horse should follow 4-H guidelines. The county 4-H program may choose to not accept a leased horse as a 4-H project horse if the lease agreement contains clauses such as requiring lessons from a specific trainer or boarding requirements at a specific facility.

10. Are there specific things that need to be included in the lease agreement?

Again, since this is a private contract, 4-H does not require any specifics. However, the 4-H Horse Project Book does provide a list of things it is a good idea to include.