

Miniature Horse

and Miniature Horse Basics

4-H Project Newsletter

This MINIATURE HORSE Project Newsletter contains information specific to the MINIATURE HORSE Project. Please use it in conjunction with the General 4-H Information Bulletin, so that you are aware of Achievement Day completion requirements as well as general opportunities and information pertaining to all 4-H members. This Project Newsletter, as well as the General 4-H Information Bulletin, will be updated in December of each year, if necessary, based on changes made at the 4-H Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting.

Welcome to the 4-H Miniature Horse Project! This newsletter will give you an overview of the Miniature Horse project, answer some of your questions concerning expectations of the project and provide you with project ideas and some resources. Project newsletters are an excellent reference to keep on hand to refer to throughout the year. Enjoy your year in the Miniature Horse project and when working on your project, remember to "Learn to do by Doing." If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Agriculture Leadership Coordinator (ALC).

Miniature Horse Project Work Requirements

On Achievement Day, Miniature Horse members must complete showmanship with their registered 4-H Miniature Horse.

Your miniature horse must be one year of age or older (**4-H NS AGM 2012**), be a mare or gelding, and measure 38 inches or less at the withers. Miniature Horses measuring more than 38 inches will not be eligible to compete at County or Provincial level competition. Please note if a miniature horse is being used in cart class, it must be three (3) years of age or older. Showmanship will be done at Club Achievement Days.

At County Shows, Exhibitions, and 4-H NS Show, "Judging", "Showmanship", "Pleasure Driving" and an "Optional Class" (Poles in the even numbered years and barrels for the odd numbered years) will be available.

Miniature Horse members may show in a halter which is suitable to that attire.

Horse Basics Members in addition to a showmanship class, must also exhibit a report or display on some aspect of horsemanship and should involve a horse (**Clarification at 4-H NS AGM 2012**) The horse which Horse Basics member shows must be a 4-H registered animal for the current year.

Record sheet note: There is a specific Horse Basics record sheet which differs from the other horse projects.

DRESS CODE:

This dress code will be enforced at 4-H Nova Scotia 4-H Shows.

HELMETS:

- All 4-H Members must wear a SEI-ASTM approved equestrian helmet that is properly fitted and fastened at all times when driving or riding in a horse drawn vehicle at 4-H events (4-H NS AGM 2009).

SHOWMANSHIP:

- Dress pants, belt, long sleeved shirt with collar (if a jacket is not worn).
- Boots with a heel.

DRIVING:

- Drivers should be dressed conservatively according to the style of the present day.
- Gentlemen must wear a coat or jacket while appearing in any class, unless excused from doing so by the judge.
- Ladies must wear a conservative dress (recommended long sleeve), tailored suit, or slacks. Floppy hats are discouraged.
- Unless otherwise specified, the driver shall wear an apron or knee rug, and gloves.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Junior members competing in Driving must have a header (an individual senior member or parent who can assist with the horse). Junior Members must also be accompanied by person who must also wear a helmet, in the cart during driving classes.

NOTE: Sun Safety hats are permitted to be worn by 4-H members while showing in outdoor rings. It is recommended that hat is suitable for showing attire.

OTHER:

- Expensive clothing is not necessary
- All clothes must be neat, clean and fit properly
- Boots to be polished
- Hair must be neat, not in face (use hairnet, tie back or put up under hat)
- Chewing gum is NOT allowed
- No talking between exhibitors while showing

Livestock Registration

4-H members must select their 4-H animals by May 1st of the current 4-H year and must submit livestock registration information to the Regional ALC by May 15th of the current 4-H year. This information is necessary to assist with county show/exhibition planning, including judges, class schedules, awards, etc. The following information must be submitted for Livestock Registration requirements: name of member, junior member/senior member, conformation class entered, sex of animal, breed of animal, and date of birth of animal.

4-H animals may be substituted between the registration deadline of May 15th and Achievement Day in the case of injury, sickness, disease or death of the animal. If an animal is to be substituted prior to Achievement Day, pre-approval from the Regional ALC is necessary. A vet certificate may be required. After Achievement Day, no substitutions are permitted. 4-H members who complete their livestock project with their own registered/approved animal on Achievement Day may use another 4-H member's 4-H animal in a showmanship class at county show/exhibition and the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show.

Horse Basics Members must show a registered 4-H Miniature Horse and should register the horse they plan to use for their Showmanship class, on the Livestock Registration Sheets due on May 15th of the current year.

4-H NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL SHOW CLASS & SECTIONS:

Each county is eligible to send the top junior and top senior Miniature Horse members to the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show for the following classes:

CLASS #1: MINIATURE HORSE JUDGING

CLASS #2: MINIATURE HORSE SHOWMANSHIP

Each county is eligible to send the top junior and top senior Miniature Horse members to the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show for the following class:

CLASS #53: MINIATURE HORSE

SECTION 1:	Miniature Horse "Pleasure Driving"
SECTION 2:	Miniature Horse "Optional" – Poles or Barrels

Note: Members must qualify in the "Pleasure Driving" class in order to participate in the "Optional" class. **(4-H NS AGM 2013)**

Please note that the National Farm Animal Code of Practice should be followed when housing animals for 4-H events.

These standards can be found at: <http://www.nfacc.ca/>

SHOWMANSHIP:

Appearance of Horse - conformation not to be a factor

- Conditioning
- Grooming (Clean coat, mane & tail free of tangles, hooves properly trimmed and clean)
- Trimming (Mane & tail pulled, trimmed, flowing according to breed and type, trim ears, long hair on jaw, legs and pasterns)
- Tack (Leather or nylon should be soft, supple and clean. All brass fittings or chrome fittings should be shined. All tack must be in good repair and fit properly)

SHOWING IN RING

- **Leading** – Enter the ring at an alert walk. Walk in the direction indicated by the judge (generally counter clockwise). Walk on the animal's left side holding the lead shank in your right hand near the halter. The remainder of the lead is held safely and neatly in the left hand. Animal should lead at a ready walk. When moving a horse individually, be sure the judge has a clear view of the animal's action. Allow the animal enough lead that it can move freely in a straight line. The exhibitor should perform the showmanship pattern as directed by judge or ring steward.
- **Posing** – When posing your animal, members should stand towards the front of the animal in a position that you can always see the judge. Animals are shown on the halves to facilitate easier movement between members and the judge (Resolution from 2012 Annual Meeting). Members should lead their animal straight to the judge so they can evaluate the front leg movement. Once the horse is in front of the judge the animal should be squarely set up for inspection. Members should move around to the side of the horse as the judge walks around. The judge should have full view of the animal at all times. It shows greater control and training if the horse stays still as the member moves from side to side. When the judge moves to their position in front of the horse the exhibitor should move to the left side of the animal. When animal moves from the judge it should travel in a straight line so the judge can observe the horse's rear leg movement.
- **Poise and Alertness** – The animal and the show person should be alert at all times and aware of the judge's position. The show person should exhibit sportsmanlike behaviour. Show your animal at all times and respond quickly to questions and requests from judge.

CLASSES:

“Pleasure Driving”:

General Rules:

- Miniature horse must be three (3) years of age or older for safety reasons.
- The driving cart must have a basket.
- A whip must be carried in hand or on cart in all driving classes.

- Competitors should strive to present an appropriate turnout. "Appropriate" to indicate the balance and pleasing appearance of the combination of horse and vehicle. Factors determining the above include compatible size, type and weight of horse and vehicle.
- It is the responsibility of each competitor to ensure that the harness and vehicle are in good repair, clean and fit properly, and structurally sound. Bridles should fit snugly to prevent catching on a vehicle or other pieces of harness, and under no conditions should a bridle be removed from a horse while it is still put to a vehicle. Horses must be serviceably sound and must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind or impairment of vision in both eyes. It is also the responsibility of each competitor to ensure that his horse or horses are physically fit to fulfil the tasks required of them.
- Horses should never be left unattended while put to a vehicle.
- The judge must excuse from competition an unsafe vehicle, or an unruly horse. It is permissible to talk to your horse in a subdued tone of voice, if necessary. Clucks for starting, "walk on" "trot" and "whoa" are the more accepted terms. Any tendency on the part of the driver to shout, whistle, or talk loudly to the horse should be curtailed. In the arena, the less said the better. A driver should strive to control the horse's movements with minimal vocal aids.

CLARIFICATION OF GAITS:

Gait requirements: Pleasure Driving is to be shown in both ways of the arena/ring at a walk, collected trot and working trot. Horses will enter ring counter-clockwise.

Walk: A free, regular forward moving 4-beat gait. The horse should walk energetically but calmly, with even and determined steps.

Collected trot: The horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected.

Working trot: This is a clear but not excessive increase in pace and length of stride. The horse goes forward freely and straight, engaging the hind legs with good hock action, on a taut but light rein, the position being balanced and unconstrained. The steps should be as even as possible. The hind feet touch the ground in the foot prints of the forefeet. Excessive speed will be penalized.

Halt: Horses and vehicle should be brought to a complete square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, horses should stand attentive, motionless and straight, with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs, and be ready to move off at the slightest indication from the driver.

Rein back: This is a backwards movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs with the hind legs remaining well in line. To be performed in two parts: (1) Rein back at least four steps, unhurried, with head flexed and pushing back evenly in a straight line using light contact and quiet aids. (2) Move forward willingly to former position using the same quiet aids.

Turnout

Grooming and trimming of horse - 35 points

Appearance of Exhibitor - 30 points

Cleanliness, adjustment of tack and appropriateness of harness and vehicle - 35 points

Barrels in Cart

1. Uses the regular cloverleaf pattern
2. Horses should be 3 years of age or older with use of cart. The cart used can either be a 2-wheeled roadster or pleasure cart.
3. Make this a timed event and try not to let your mini break in trot, go off pattern or knock over pylons.

Pole Bending in Cart

1. Six (6) poles/pylons to be used.
2. Gait required: Trot. One (1) break in trot is forgiven.
3. Miniature horses must be three (3) years of age or older for safety reasons.
4. The cart used can either be a 2-wheeled roadster or pleasure cart.
6. Follows regular poles pattern can be found in the **NS Light Horse Project Regulations and Standards** booklet.
7. Disqualifications- off pattern, crossing start finish line (except at beginning and end of pattern), and major gait break (not corrected immediately).
8. Time Penalties- Break in Gait and knocking over pole/pylon time penalty

THE AMERICAN MINIATURE HORSE OFFICIAL STANDARD OF PERFECTION (taken/edited from the Official Website of the AMHA - www.amha.org/)

Miniature Horse Judging:

Please refer to this general information to assist you as you complete the Judging component of your project.

General Impression:

- A small, sound, well balanced horse, possessing the correct conformation characteristics required of most breeds.
- Refinement and femininity in the mare.
- Boldness and masculinity in the stallion.
- The general impression should be one of symmetry, strength, agility and alertness.
- Since the breed objective is the smallest possible perfect horse, preference in judging shall be given the smaller horse, other characteristics being approximately equal.

Head:

- In proportion to length of neck and body.
- Broad forehead with large prominent eyes, set wide apart.
- Comparatively short distance between eyes and muzzle. Large nostrils. Clean, refined muzzle.
- Even bite.

Ears:

- Medium in size. Pointed. Carried alertly, with tips curving slightly inward.

Throat:

- Latch: Clean and well defined.

Neck:

- Flexible, lengthy, in proportion to body and type and blending smoothly into withers.

Shoulder:

- Long, sloping and well angulated, allowing a free-swinging stride and alert carriage of head and neck. Well-muscled forearm.

Body:

- Well-muscled. Short back and loins in relation to length of underline, smooth and generally level top-line. Deep girth and flank.

Hindquarters:

- Long, well-muscled hip, thigh and gaskin. Highest point of croup to be same height as withers. Smooth rounding off rump.

Legs:

- Set straight and parallel when viewed from front or back. Straight, true and squarely set. Hooves pointing directly ahead. Pasterns sloping about 45 degrees and blending smoothly with no change in angle from the hooves to the ground. Hooves to be round and compact, trimmed as short as practicable for an unshod horse.

Colour:

- The hair should be lustrous and silky.

PROJECT MEETING IDEAS:

Veterinarian presentation on horse diseases; judging practices at neighboring horse stables; a session with a farrier about hoof care and proper shoeing; visit to a horse breeding farm; many horse breed organizations have audio-visual material, check with registered horse owners in your area; a session on proper care and safe tacking of your horse or pony; judging practices with other 4-H Clubs; fun trail rides or horse shows. An excellent resource (video) "Every Time Every Ride" deals with the importance of wearing a helmet is available from your Agriculture Leadership Coordinator.

Club Activities Ideas:

Here are some great project activities that will add skill to your miniature project! Remember the importance of safety in all 4-H activities that we do whether at club level, project level or any other aspect involving 4-H. Volunteers, members and other assisting in 4-H activities need to take every normal precaution to prevent an accident from occurring. Safety comes first with 4-H! Do not attempt these activities if your miniature horse or you, are not experienced enough. These ideas can be modified to fit the skill of all miniature horse members! These are recommended as club activities only as they are not competitive events in the 4-H.

Pleasure Driving Reinmanship

A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the ability and skill of the driver.

- To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, collected trot, and working trot. Drivers shall be required to rein back. All drivers chosen for a workout must be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the Judge and may be asked to execute a figure of eight and perform any other appropriate tests. To be judged 75% on handling of reins and whip (A whip must be carried in hand or on cart in all driving classes), control, posture and overall appearance of driver, and 25% on the condition of harness and vehicle, and neatness of attire.

Pleasure Driving Working

- A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the suitability of a horse to provide a pleasant drive. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, collected trot, and working trot. To stand quietly, both on the rail and while lined up, and rein back. All entries chosen for a workout must be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the Judge, and may be asked to execute a figure of eight.

Pleasure Driving Working Judging Criteria:

Performance, manners and way of going	70%
Condition and fit of Harness and Vehicle	20%
Neatness of attire	10%

Obstacle Trail Course

1. To be completed in hand or with cart.
2. Miniature horse must be 3 years in age or older.
3. Suggested Obstacles: Bridge, gate, walk poles, pick up and drop off (eg. raincoat), trotting serpentine (using pylons with tennis balls on top add lots of fun). Tires and steps are prohibited.
4. Set a maximum time per obstacle (60 sec.). Time penalization for any unnecessary delays or excessive time at object.
5. Baiting is not acceptable.

6. Judged class on performance and way of going with emphasis on manners throughout the course.

7. Add a little fun and set your course up as "driver's choice". Establish a time limit and let handlers/drivers choose which obstacles and order they would like complete them in.

Costume Class:

Dress yourself and mini up! Remember safety when designing a costume and make it original.

RESOURCES:

In November 2008, a DVD set (4) titled 4-H Horsemanship was forwarded to all registered Horse Leaders in the Province. The resource deals with a wide range of topics - everything from haltering and grooming to specifics on reining. It has a great amount of detail on the 4 DVDs. If you are a horse leader and you have not received this resource, please contact your Agriculture Leadership Coordinator.

NOVA SCOTIA EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION: 4-H Members do have the opportunity to join the NS Equestrian Federation. There are both Individual and Family rates available and with membership comes Insurance - Accident and Liability, etc. There are also other insurance options available with the membership. For more information, contact the Nova Scotia Equestrian Federation at nsefmembership@sportnovascotia.ca or visit the website at www.horsenovascotia.ca

CONTAGIOUS/INFECTIOUS DISEASE & QUARANTINE:

4-H members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are reminded that 4-H achievement days and shows are showcases for the 4-H program, and the agricultural industry in this province. They are reminded that infectious diseases can be transmitted during transport, as well as at the show. As such, it is strongly recommended for the protection of the public, participants, and the animals at the show, that animals having or showing signs of infectious diseases not be brought to shows. As well, livestock exhibitors and owners must understand that in attending 4-H Shows, there is a risk of their animal contracting disease regardless of the best efforts of all involved.

If you suspect that your animal has a contagious/infectious disease, please contact your local vet immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

A brochure providing additional information on "Infectious and Contagious Diseases Affecting 4-H Livestock" is available. If you wish to receive a copy by mail or email, please contact your ALC for this information. It contains important information for all livestock members on this topic and will be critical to review with 4-H Clubs, livestock owners, and your local veterinarian when making decisions about attending 4-H achievement days and shows.