

## 4-H Equine Event Safety Rules For Exhibitors of Young Animals

### **Objective:**

Promote safety and safety awareness for youth, parents/guardians, leaders, mentors and 4-H Educators while working with young equine.

A young equine is defined as any equine less than three years of age.

### **Requirements at 4-H Equine Events:**

Youth must be 14 years of age as of January 1 of the current 4-H year to handle young equine

Equine ridden under saddle or driven must be three years old or older

Any type of equine may be used for the 4-H Equine Project

The animal should suit the size, skill, and competency of the rider/handler

The rider/handler should be able to keep the animal under control at all times and manage her/him safely\*

For all events proper equestrian footwear shall be worn at all times when handling any equine.

Approved helmets must be worn at all times when handling young equine

The youth must have at least one year experience of working with a mature, trained equine

Youth working with an equine under three years of age, need to be supervised by an adult who has past experience working with a young equine

Judges, officials, or clinicians will not discriminate against exhibitors wearing an approved helmet when handling young animals

### **Restrictions at 4-H Equine Events:**

Unweaned foals of any age are not permitted

Colts/stallions are not permitted regardless of age

Observation of these requirements for 4-H youth working with an equine in any situation is strongly suggested even if you choose to not attend any 4-H event with your equine but still want to do the equine project with a young equine.

\*An equine and rider/handler may be excused from any 4-H event by the judge, official or clinician if they feel any situation is dangerous and may cause harm.

Some information adapted and modified from the New England 4-H Horse Show Rules and Guidelines