

Attention Horse Club leaders & Agents:

Below you will see some FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) that Dr. Ken Culp has recently fielded about the upcoming 2010-2011 Horse Leader Certification Program. In a recent conversation I also questioned him about a county that does not certify a leader (due to cost etc) but still has kids that want to participate in the program. How do we entertain or do we (such as cross county lines)? As we all know this has to be a joint consensus between the two county 4-H councils, Dr. Culp and I both agreed that if a county had 5 members or more wanting to do such then that county would need to spend the money, get a leader certified and take care of those kids in their own county. (4) members or less might work but anything above that constitutes enough youth to form a club within their own county.

Respectfully,
Bonnie Jolly, District 5 4-H Horse Contact

Hello all,

Well, now that the state fair is over, I guess that all thoughts have turned to Horse Certification!

Let me answer a few recurring questions that keep popping up...

Q: If a 4-H member is enrolled in both livestock and horse, is that member required to get six hours of education in each program?

A: Absolutely! These are entirely different programs! The federal (USDA) requirement is that in order to be counted as a 4-H member, that youth must receive a minimum of six hours of educational contact each year in each project.

Q: Can a 4-H member go to another county to get some of their hours?

A: No. The six hours of instruction must come from their own certified 4-H volunteer. However, if two counties (i.e. Barren and Metcalfe) jointly sponsor a clinic or workshop, and both certified volunteers (from Barren and Metcalfe) are involved in planning and teaching the workshop, and that workshop is advertised to all 4-H members, then those hours would count, because the certified volunteers from both counties were involved. However, a youth from one county (for example, Barren) can't just show up at a meeting and tell his/her certified volunteer that s/he attended a two hour clinic in Metcalfe (or whatever) county and expect those hours to be counted.

Q: Can one volunteer be certified for more than one county.

A: No.

Q: If a volunteer is certified for livestock, does s/he have to attend the horse certification workshop?

A: Absolutely! These are different subject areas and the content, while having some overlap, will also be significantly different. (i.e. You wouldn't expect a certified Shooting Sports Instructor to be automatically certified for Horse!)

Q: When will Horse Certification be fully implemented?

A: For the 2011 4-H Program year, which began on September 1, 2010. If you plan to have a 4-H Horse Program in 2011, you must certify at least one volunteer from each 4-H Horse Group in your County during the October, January or February certification workshops.

Q: What is a 4-H Horse Group?

A: This will be somewhat different depending upon your county situation. If your county has one county 4-H Horse Club, then that is your only 4-H Horse Group. If you have multiple clubs, then you have multiple groups and must certify at least one volunteer from each club. If you also have 4-H horse members enrolled in the individual study option, then that is another horse group and their parent must be certified OR that 4-H member must join a 4-H horse club with a certified volunteer.

Q: When must the six hour educational requirement be completed?

A: Prior to the May 1 ownership deadline, annually.

Q: How should the six hour educational requirement be documented?

A: Using the meeting sign-in sheets, include the name(s) of the lesson(s) that was/were taught, along with the hours of education. Either a volunteer, a support staff or the agent should keep track of how many hours each 4-H member has completed on an Excel spreadsheet.

In virtually all cases, the answers to your questions regarding KY 4-H Horse Certification will be identical to the same questions with Livestock Volunteer Certification.

Hopefully this clarifies your questions!

Ken

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