



Horse Program Guidelines

Version 12.0

Revised October 2022

The Foundation for The Gator Nation
An Equal Opportunity Institution

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1 PREFACE	2
2 INTRODUCTION	3
2.1 DEFINITION OF TERMS	3
2.2 THE HORSE PROJECT	4
2.3 THE HORSELESS PROJECT	4
2.4 COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES NOT REQUIRING OWNERSHIP/LEASE OF A HORSE	4
3 REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE 4-H HORSE PROGRAM	5
3.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	5
3.2 BREVARD COUNTY REQUIREMENTS	5
3.2.1 <i>The Horse Project</i>	5
3.2.2 <i>The Horseless Project</i>	6
3.2.3 <i>Competitive Horse Related Activities Not Requiring Ownership/Lease of a Horse</i> ...	6
4 OPEN BREVARD COUNTY HORSE SHOWS SPONSORED BY 4-H	7
5 AREA EAST 4-H HORSE SHOW	8
6 STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW	9
7 HORSE PROGRAM RECOGNITION	10
7.1 HORSE PROGRAM PARTICIPATION RECOGNITION	10
7.2 YEAR-END HORSE SHOWING RECOGNITION	10
7.3 PROJECT/ACTIVITY BOOK EXCELLENCE	11
7.3.1 <i>Activity/Project Books of Members 5-7</i>	11
7.3.2 <i>Project Books of Members 8-18 (Love a Horse, Jr/Int, Sr)</i>	11
7.4 FLORIDA 4-H HORSE ADVANCEMENT RECOGNITION (HORSEMANSHIP LEVELS 1-4).....	11
7.5 INDIVIDUAL AND CLUB 4-H PERFORMANCE STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	12
APPENDIX A. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR KEY RESOURCES	13
APPENDIX B. ACHIEVEMENT AND RECORD BOOK SCORE SHEETS	14

1 PREFACE

The 4-H Horse Program provides an opportunity for young people to participate in activities designed to improve citizenship, sportsmanship, horsemanship, discipline, and responsibility while creating an atmosphere for learning and building friendships. 4-H membership in the horse program is available to all youth ages 8-18 without regard to race, color, sex, handicap, or national origin. Note that youth ages 5-7 may enroll in 4-H but may not enroll in a large animal project. The Love A Horse Project is available to all 4-H youth ages 5-18.

Activities offered through the 4-H Horse Program provide physical, mental, social, and emotional growth experiences for individual 4-H members. The Brevard County 4-H Horse Program offers competitive and non-competitive cooperative learning activities in a balanced non-formal educational program.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Brevard County 4-H horse program offers a 4-Her the opportunity to undertake a horse project or participate in several horse-related activities that do not require ownership or lease of a horse.

The 4-H Horse Program is managed and operated by the Brevard County Extension Service. The 4-H Agent in charge of the program is responsible for program content and execution .

A complete list, with contact information, of key program resources is contained in Appendix A.

2.1 Definition of Terms

4-H Program Year	The 4-H year starts September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year. 4-H enrollment and participation revolve around this 4-H program year definition.
Cloverbud Participants	Cloverbud refers to participants 5 through 7 years of age as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. Cloverbuds may not enroll in a large animal project but may enroll in a Love a Horse Project.
Junior Participants	Junior refers to participants 8 through 10 years of age as of September 1 of the current 4-H year.
Intermediate Participants	Intermediate refers to participants 11 through 13 years of age as of September 1 of the current 4-H year.
Senior Participants	The Senior division begins at age 14, as of September 1 of the current 4-H year, and the 4-Her must NOT have passed his/her 19th birthday as of September 1 of the current 4-H year or must NOT have completed highschool, whichever comes first.
Project	A series of learning experiences within an area of interest. Members learn and then share what they’ve learned. A 4-H project is what a 4-Her learns, creates, or acts out, for example: learning to grow a garden, making a dress, or managing an animal.
Horse Project	A large animal project that requires the 4-Hers lease/ownership and care of a horse. This would include any supporting events and activities in the large animal projects.
Horseless Project	A 4-H supported project for youth ages 5 through 18 as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. Participation in this project does not require ownership or lease of a horse.
Demonstration or Illustrated Talk	A “show and tell” presentation in a specific curriculum area, using posters and other visual aids to communicate presentation content.
Speech	A talk given without the use of props, posters, or visual aids.

2.2 The Horse Project

A horse project requires the 4-Her's ownership or lease and care of a horse. The 4-Her undertaking a horse project is eligible to participate in any 4-H events related to the horse project providing the participant meets all the qualifications of attendance. These events include:

- County 4-H Horse Shows held anywhere in the state of Florida
- Area East 4-H Horse Show
- State 4-H Horse Show
- Regional 4-H Horse Show
- 4-H Horsemanship School

Rules and regulations governing Area and State 4-H Horse Shows can be found in *Florida State 4-H Horse Show Official Rules* published by the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service.

Rules and regulations governing the Regional Horse Show can be found in *Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships Rules & Regulations* published by the Regional Show Committee.

Information about the County 4-H Horse Shows and 4-H Horsemanship School can be obtained from the County Extension Agent.

2.3 The Horseless Project

The Horseless Project (aka Love-a-Horse) is a 4-H supported project for youth ages 5 through 18 as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. Participation in this project does not require ownership or lease of a horse.

The project is designed to encourage youth to enjoy and learn about horses. Four successive levels of achievement books are available for the youth to work on at their own pace. Each book is structured to stimulate their learning and test their knowledge.

2.4 Competitive Activities Not Requiring Ownership/Lease of a Horse

Horse related activities, which do not require ownership or lease of a horse, include:

- Individual Demonstration
- Team Demonstration (2 people)
- Public Speaking
- Horse Judging
- Hippology
- Horse Bowl

Rules and regulations governing these competitive events can be found on the University of Florida, Department of Animal Sciences website:

<https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/youth/horse/>

3 REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE 4-H HORSE PROGRAM

3.1 General Requirements

These general requirements apply to all participants in the 4-H horse program.

The individual must:

1. Be enrolled in 4-H

Online enrollment must be “approved” prior to the youth’s participation in any 4-H activity. Online enrollment must be updated and approved annually (the parent/guardian signatures must reflect the current 4-H year).

3.2 Brevard County Requirements

3.2.1 The Horse Project

1. The member must meet all the general requirements for participation in the 4-H horse program.
2. The enrollment must declare participation in the “Horse” project.
3. It is highly recommended (but not required) that the 4-Her join one of the county 4-H horse clubs. There are one or more clubs available, meeting at various locations in the county. Please contact the County Extension Office/4-H Agent for a complete list of 4-H horse clubs in Brevard County. The member is obligated to adhere to the rules and regulations set by the Horse Club Leader. Horse Club activities include regular meetings and educational activities which promote fellowship, leadership, and horsemanship.
4. All project animals must be owned or leased by the 4-H member, his parents, brother, sister, or legal guardian. All rules and regulations set forth in the *Florida State 4-H Horse Show Official Rules* regarding ownership and lease of a project animal must be met.
5. All project animals must be declared by submitting a *Brevard County 4-H Individual Horse Record* (one ID record for each project animal). All Id Records must be on file with the County Extension Office/4-H Agent at least one week prior to the youth’s participation in any 4-H sponsored activity involving the use of the project animal.
6. If the project animal is leased, the member(s) must complete three copies of the *4-H Horse and Pony Lease Agreement* or any lease agreement that is acceptable to both the horse owner and the Lessee. One copy is given to the Lessor (owner), one copy remains in the possession of the Lessee (4-H member), and one copy is submitted to the County Extension Office/4-H Agent. The lease agreement must be in effect (and on file with the County Extension Office/4-H Agent) prior to the youth’s participation in any 4-H sponsored activity involving the use of the leased project animal.
7. In order for a youth to participate in a horse activity requiring ownership or lease of a horse outside of Brevard County, the *Brevard County 4-H Individual Horse Record* and the Lease Agreement (if project animal is leased) must be in effect (and on file with the County Extension Office/4-H Agent) by December 31 of the current 4-H year.
8. The member is responsible for satisfactorily maintaining all records on all project animals as required by the *Florida 4-H Senior Horse Record Book* for senior age youth or the *Brevard County, FL 4-H Junior/Intermediate Horse Project Record Book* for Junior/Intermediate age

youth. Guidelines for maintaining the *FL 4-H Junior/Intermediate Horse Project Record Book* are contained in Appendix B. Club leaders will work with the 4-H member to insure proper records are maintained.

9. A 4-H member may manage more than one project animal. All rules and regulations regarding ownership/lease and records apply to each project animal. One record book may be maintained for all project animals or a different record book may be maintained for each project animal.

3.2.2 The Horseless Project

1. The member must meet all the general requirements for participation in the 4-H horse program.
2. The enrollment must declare participation in the “Horseless” project.
3. It is highly recommended that the 4-Her join one of the county 4-H horse clubs. There are one or more clubs available, meeting at various locations in the county. Please contact the County Extension Office/4-H Agent for a complete list of 4-H horse clubs in Brevard County. The member is obligated to adhere to the rules and regulations set by the Horse Club Leader. Horse Club activities include regular meetings and educational activities which promote fellowship, leadership, and horsemanship.
4. The member is encouraged to work on any one or all of the Love a Horse Project Achievement Books.

3.2.3 Competitive Horse Related Activities Not Requiring Ownership/Lease of a Horse

Individual demonstration, team demonstration, public speaking, horse judging, hippology, and horse bowl are all competitive events not requiring ownership or lease of a horse. Brevard County requirements for participation in these events are as follows:

1. The member must meet all general requirements for participation in the 4-H horse program.
2. The member must meet all district, regional, or national requirements for participation in the specific competitive event.
3. In the case where participation is limited, the 4-H Agent or coach may institute a qualification process to determine who will be selected to represent the county at the competitive event. The qualifying process will be at the discretion of the 4-H Agent or coach but will be based on an objective procedure.
4. The activity coach develops the education curriculum for the activity with consideration given to materials available through the Florida Cooperative Extension Service.

4 OPEN BREVARD COUNTY HORSE SHOWS SPONSORED BY 4-H

Participation in open horse shows sponsored by 4-H does not require 4-H membership. The organizing committee, with the following exceptions, determines event guidelines:

1. No exhibitor under the age of 8 as of the most recent September 1 will be allowed to participate.
2. Exhibitors who are 18 and under as of the most recent September 1 are required to wear an SEI or SEI/ASTM approved safety equestrian helmet with fastened chin harness in all classes and all warm-up and make-up areas. Additionally, appropriate footwear and approved helmets must be worn, with harness fastened, at all times when mounted. This pertains to the entire show grounds from the time of arrival until departure. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

5 AREA EAST 4-H HORSE SHOW

Participation at the Area East 4-H Horse Show requires that the 4-H member meet certain requirements for participation. These requirements include:

1. The member must meet all general requirements for participation in the 4-H horse program.
2. The member must meet all Brevard County general requirements for participation in a 4-H horse project.
3. The member must meet all eligibility rules set forth in *Florida 4-H Ara & State Horse Shows Official Rules* published by the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service.
4. Horse ID form and Lease form (if applicable) submitted to 4-H Agent by December 31, of the current program year.
5. Must be an active member in good standing of an active Brevard County 4-H Club for the current program year. To be considered “active”, a 4-H member must attend 2/3 of regularly scheduled club meetings which may be scheduled in-person or via a virtual platform.
6. The horse project record book must be received with the Area East 4-H Horse Show entry. The horse project record book must include records for the horse being entered in the Area East 4-H Horse Show with all relevant data beginning with the date the horse was secured as a project horse (this includes adding a substituted horse into the project book). The horse project record book must be up to date through March 31st but totals and year-end status or stories should not be completed at this time. The horse project record book must meet the “Red Quality” standard.

The 4-H Agent may reject a show entry if the registration paperwork is incomplete or any of the above requirements have not been met.

A 4-H member may show up to two project horses at the Area East Horse Show. Rules governing the Area East Horse Show are documented in the *Florida 4-H Ara & State Horse Shows Official Rules*.

The Area East 4-H Horse Show is a qualifying event for the State 4-H Horse Show. The qualification procedures are determined by the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida.

6 STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW

Participation at the State 4-H Horse Show requires that the 4-H member meet certain requirements for participation. These requirements include:

1. The member must meet all eligibility rules set forth in *Florida 4-H Ara & State Horse Shows Official Rules* published by the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service.
2. The horse project record book must be complete and received by June 1 (in the event that this deadline is on the weekend or a holiday then the due date is the following business day). The horse project record book must include records for the horse being entered in the State 4-H Horse Show with all relevant data beginning with the date the horse was secured as a project horse. The horse project record book must be “Red Quality” to be accepted.

The 4-H Agent may reject a show entry if the entry paperwork is incomplete or any of the above requirements have not been met. This means that if a 4-H'er qualifies and registers for the State 4-H Horse Show and fails to submit a “Red Quality” project book at the end of the year (June 1), the 4-H Agent can pull the 4-H'er from the State Show. In this case, a refund will not be honored.

7 HORSE PROGRAM RECOGNITION

Recognition is an important part of the 4-H experience. Recognizing 4-Hers individual and group efforts provides them with feedback and helps them become more capable and competent. . The Brevard County Horse Program Recognition Model strives to encourage youth to learn by doing and set goals to measure progress.

The recognition outlined here is funded entirely by the Horse Program constituents and therefore the scope of the recognition is dependent on the funds available.

7.1 Horse Program Participation Recognition

The recognition outlined in this section may or may not be available depending on financing.

7.2 Year-end Horse Showing Recognition

The 4-H horse program **may** elect to recognize 4-H exhibitors who participated in horse shows with their project animals with year-end awards.

To be eligible for year-end recognition related to showing a project animal, the following requirements must be met:

1. The member must meet all general requirements for participation in the 4-H horse program.
2. The member must meet all Brevard County general requirements for participation in a 4-H horse project.
3. The Horse ID form and Lease form (if applicable) must be submitted to the 4-H Agent by December 31, of the current program year.
4. The member must be an active member in good standing of an active Brevard County 4-H Club for the current program year. To be considered “active”, a 4-H member must attend 2/3 of regularly scheduled club meetings which may be scheduled in-person or via a virtual platform.
5. The horse project record book must include records for the horse being considered for year-end horse showing recognition with all relevant data beginning with the date the horse was secured as a project horse. The project book must meet the "Red Quality" standard.
6. The showing period will be from September 1 through May 31 of the current program year.
7. Points can be earned at any show, anywhere but only for a maximum of 3 shows and a maximum of 5 classes per show. The choice of which shows to count and which classes in each show to count for 4-H points will be at the discretion of the 4-H member.
8. The 4-H member must submit a Brevard County 4-H Alternative Competition Report for each show to be counted for Year-End Horse Showing Recognition. The reports must be submitted to the 4-H Agent no later than May 31. Only 3 reports documenting 5 classes on each report may be submitted. Each report must be validated and signed by the show manager/secretary.

For the purpose of year-end horse showing recognition, the following applies:

1. Points are awarded to horse and rider combination.
2. Points will be awarded on a graduated scale based on number of entries in the class up to a maximum of 6 points for first place.

Place	Number of Entries in Class					
	≥6	5	4	3	2	1
	POINTS					
1	6	5	4	3	2	1
2	5	4	3	2	1	
3	4	3	2	1		
4	3	2	1			
5	2	1				
6	1					

3. The number of entries in each class will be the total number of entries (counting DQs but not counting scratches).
4. The tiebreaker for all horse showing recognition in order of precedence is as follows:
 - a. Horse and rider combination shown in the most horse shows
 - b. Horse and rider combination awarded the highest place across the horse shows
 - c. Horse and rider combination accumulating the largest number of highest places

7.3 Project/Activity Book Excellence

7.3.1 Activity/Project Books of Members 5-7

Activity/project books of individual 4-H members in this age bracket will not be graded for quality but all members completing a Horse Activity Book or Love a Horse Project Achievement Book will receive a blue ribbon to acknowledge their effort.

7.3.2 Project Books of Members 8-18 (Love a Horse, Jr/Int, Sr)

Individual 4-H members in this age bracket who complete a Love a Horse Project Achievement Book, Jr/Int Horse Project Record Book, or Senior Horse Project Record Book **may** receive an award based on the quality of the book. The system used for these awards is a Danish System of blue, red and white ribbons. Quality, as measured against product standards and fulfillment of deliverable requirements, determines the scoring.

- 95 - 100 Blue Ribbon plus an award (tangible item or money)
- 90 - 94 Blue Ribbon
- 80 - 89 Red Ribbon
- 79 and below White Ribbon

Refer to <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/brevard/4-h-and-youth/4-h-youth/#horse> for all publications relative to the Love a Horse Project Books.

Project Book score sheets are provided in Appendix C.

7.4 Florida 4-H Horse Advancement Recognition (Horsemanship Levels 1-4)

Florida’s 4-H Horse advancement program encourages planned, systematic and self-motivated learning by 4-H members. Its purpose is to:

- provide guidelines to help members set realistic project goals
- motivate self learning
- divide members into interest and ability levels

- broaden member experiences and help them develop both life skills and project skills
- provide a planned learning approach for members
- serve as a way of recognizing members for completion of project goals

There are four levels to Florida's Horse Advancement Program. They are:

- Level I Basic Horseman
- Level II Novice Horseman
- Level III Intermediate Horseman
- Level IV Advanced Horseman

Refer to <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/brevard/4-h-and-youth/4-h-youth/#horse> for all publications relative to the Horse Advancement Program.

The advancement levels are written so there is a planned learning sequence for all members. Each member should start with Level I, the Basic Horseman. It is recommended that a member be at least 8 years old to complete Level I, 10 years old to complete Level II, 13 years old to complete Level III, and 16 or older to complete Level IV.

The Advancement program is designed so a 4-H member may progress as quickly as he or she desires based on interest, effort and ability. Members may work on sections in two or more levels at the same time; completing each level as the appropriate age requirements are met.

7.5 Individual and Club 4-H Performance Standards of Excellence

Florida 4-H performance standards are a set of guidelines for member participation with several options for youth and/or clubs to work toward. The levels of standards are based on participation in the 4-H program at the county, district, state, and national 4-H events, as well as leadership, citizenship and community service project areas. These performance standards make youth aware of the opportunities available in the 4-H program and encourage members to become active participants

Refer to

<https://florida4h.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/awards-and-recognition/> for member performance standards requirements and performance standards applications.

APPENDIX A. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR KEY RESOURCES

Brevard County Extension Office	Brevard County Co-op Ext. Service 3695 Lake Drive Cocoa, FL 32926 Main Office: 321-633-1702 ext 52320 FAX: 321-633-1890 FAX website: http://brevard.ifas.ufl.edu
4-H Agent: TBD	
4-H Program Assistant: Gus Koerner	gkoerner@ufl.edu Tel: (321) 633-1702 ext. 52320

APPENDIX B. ACHIEVEMENT AND RECORD BOOK SCORE SHEETS

Brevard County 4-H Love A Horse Achievement Book Score Sheet

Scoring Category	Criteria	Criteria Grading Value	Max Possible Points	Points Earned
Cover Page	All information filled in completely		5	
Completeness	All blanks and spaces filled in	20	20	
	Almost all blanks and spaces filled in (no more than 5 incomplete blanks or spaces)	18		
	Approximately 75% of all blanks and spaces are filled in	15		
	Approximately 50% of all blanks and spaces are filled in	12		
	Approximately 25% of all blanks and spaces are filled in	10		
	Less than 25% of all blanks and spaces are filled in	5		
Accuracy	All blanks and spaces filled in with the correct answers	30	30	
	Almost all blanks and spaces filled in with the correct answers (no more than 5 incomplete blanks or spaces or incorrect answers)	25		
	Approximately 75% of all blanks and spaces are filled in with the correct answers	20		
	Approximately 50% of all blanks and spaces are filled in with the correct answers	15		
	Approximately 25% of all blanks and spaces are filled in with the correct answers	10		
	Less than 25% of all blanks and spaces are filled in with the correct answers	5		
Neatness	Written neatly all in one color ink or all in pencil; corrections made neatly; may be either printed or written in script but is consistent in style	15	15	
	Penmanship and/or neatness is not perfect but is acceptable	12		
	Penmanship and/or neatness needs improvement	5		
Grammar and Spelling	Grammar, spelling and sentence structure is correct	15	15	
	Grammar, spelling and sentence structure is not perfect but is acceptable	12		
	Grammar, spelling and/or sentence structure needs improvement	5		
Photographs	Achievement Book is enhanced with pictures		10	
Overall Book Presentation	Achievement Book is neat and clean		2	
	Achievement Book is presented in a 3-ring binder		1	
	Achievement Book has been enhanced with graphics		2	
TOTALS			100	

Ribbons:	90-100	Blue
	80-89	Red
	79 & below	White

Brevard County 4-H Junior/Intermediate Horse Project Record Book Score Sheet

Section	Criteria	Possible Points	Points Earned
Cover Page	All information filled in completely	2	
Goals	At least 3 goals are documented (1 pt for each goal up to a max of 3 pts)	3	
	Goals are realistic and achievable	2	
	For each goal, the steps to achieve that goal is documented	5	
	Progress toward each goal is clearly defined no matter how insignificant	5	
	Goals encompass both horsemanship and personal development objectives	3	
Horse Inventory	All information filled in completely	3	
Facilities Description	Environment (barn, pastures, riding areas) of horse is well documented	3	
Support Personnel	Knowledgeable resources identified who will enhance learning experience	2	
	Includes information on how resource will support project effort	2	
Participation Competitive & Non-Competitive	List competitive events or document as NA (Sections A, B, C)	1	
	List non-competitive activities that were attended (Sections D & E) (1 pt for each activity up to a max of 5 pts)	5	
	List at least 1 community service project that was undertaken (Section F)	2	
Health Record	Health events documented completely and accurately (routine vaccinations – 2pts; routine worming – 2pts)	4	
Farrier Record	Farrier services documented completely and accurately	5	
Feeding Record	Pasture turnout is documented for each month	2	
	Daily Hay consumption is documented for each month (values are logical)	5	
	Daily Commercial Feed consumption is documented for each month (values are logical)	5	
	Type of supplements is documented or entered as NA	3	
Labor Record	Hours for each month are recorded (some weeks may be blank)	5	
	Daily responsibilities are documented or entered as NA	2	
	Weekly responsibilities are documented or entered as NA	1	
Skill Achievement	1 pt for each checked personal skill up to a max of 2 pts	2	
	1 pt for each checked people skill up to a max of 2 pts	2	
4-H Story	Written as a narrative (not a list or outline)	2	
	Handwriting, grammar, spelling and sentence structure is adequate for age	3	
	Evidence of personal change/growth as a result of project work	3	
Photographs	Captions identify ALL pictures	5	
	Pictures show member actively engaged in <u>various</u> project activities throughout the program year (i.e. community service, demonstrations, riding, grooming, field trips, clinics, showing)	5	
Signature Page	4-H leader signed and dated periodic checks (must be more than one check)	2	
	4-H er, parent and leader signed off at year end	1	
Overall Book Presentation	Project book is neat and clean	2	
	In general, handwriting, spelling and grammar adequate for age	2	
	Project book is presented in a binder	1	
		TOTALS	100

Ribbons:	90-100	Blue
	80-89	Red
	79 & below	White