



DATE: March 24, 2009

TO: CCE Educators and Staff with 4-H Horse Responsibilities

FROM: Jean T. Griffiths Jean T. Griffiths
Extension Horse Specialist

RE: 2009 NYS 4-H Horse Program - **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

IMPORTANT PIECES OF INFORMATION FOR THE NYS 4-H HORSE PROGRAM!! PLEASE READ!!

- 1) The **“official” helmet** for the NYS 4-H Horse Program for the year 2009 will be equine riding helmets with **ASTM – 1163/SEI** or **ASTM – F – 1163-04a/ SEI** certification.
- 2) “Proper **equestrian footwear** with a **distinguishable heel**” is required.
- 3) **A note about “Fat Baby” and “Chunk” type boots** – there has been quite a bit of discussion, at the Horse Education Committee (HEC) meetings, about the Western style **“Fat Baby” and “Chunk”** type of boots that are currently being marketed by most major boot manufacturers at the present time. These boots originally hit the market as “fashion boots” and were not necessarily intended to be used when riding horses. They are however being marketed as “equestrian footwear” and do have a distinguishable heel. Although the NYS 4-H Horse Program can not make a decision to outlaw this equestrian footwear – do **please try to educate** volunteers and youths in your programs that the width of the toe and the tread of the sole of some of these boots need to be looked at. The width of the stirrup being used compared to the width of a particular boot must be considered – so that there is not a tight fit; and some of the boots have significant tread types that may have more grip to the stirrup than would be desirable. Ideally the foot of the rider should be able to “slip free” of the stirrup in the event of an emergency situation. It is up to the parents/guardians of the youths to decide which boots they will purchase for their children.
- 4) An approved helmet and equestrian footwear must be worn at all times at 4-H events when:
 - a rider is **mounted** on an equine
 - youth are **riding in a vehicle** being pulled by one or more equines
 - or youth are **in the show ring** (I.e.: for showmanship at halter)

- 5) The reining pattern for the 2009 NYS Fair 4-H Horse Show - Western Division, will be **reining pattern # 4** in the 2009 NYS 4-H Horse Program Horse Show Rule Book.
- 6) Please be aware that there will be no “Draft Horse” Division, “Donkey/Mule” Division, or “Western Dressage” classes at the 2009 NYS Fair 4-H Horse Show. There will be a “Mounted Games” Division being offered at this year’s State Fair 4-H Show, if there are enough entries.
- 7) **Signatures on entry forms** – 2007, 2008, and 2009 – the NY State Fair Horse Show entries will need a county educator/designated staff signature AND the HEC “Regional Chair” signature. (This decision was suggested from the HEC Regions and voted on at the 2006 Fall HEC meeting – it PASSED).

ENTRY DEADLINE: MONDAY - AUGUST 17, 2009

NOTE: The NYS 4-H Horse Program Superintendent has stated that if ALL required signatures are not on a NYS Fair 4-H Horse Show entry – they will not be accepted as an “official entry”. There is a very short turn around time, from entry deadline to the first show day, in which data can be entered in the computer – there is no time for phone calls!! Do not jeopardize an opportunity for the youth!!

PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO THE APPROPRIATE PERSONS WORKING WITH YOUR 4-H HORSE PROGRAMS – THANK YOU!! HAVE A GREAT YEAR!!

Jtg

H:pouchhelmets09.3.09

Cc: Kinsman, Sherwood, Schirmer, Bartholomew, Dumas, Winslow, Western Chairperson – Joe Schwartz; Dressage Chairperson – Judy Dennis, HEC