



April 1, 2026

Dear 4-H Horse Member:

Enclosed you will find copies of

- Ogle County 4-H Horse Lease Agreements
- Ogle County 4-H Certificates of Horse Ownership

The appropriate forms need to be completed by 4-H members who plan to exhibit at the Ogle County 4-H Fair and/or the Illinois State Fair. These forms must be returned to the Ogle County Extension office no later than **May 1**. Forms and photos for the Illinois State Fair must be submitted to AGR.Livestock@illinois.gov at the time of entry. In addition to these forms, you must attach the required photos of the appropriate horse. Two current photos for each form are required and should be one of each side of the horse (photos will not be returned to the 4-H'ers). Tack should not be on the animal(s) when the photos are taken. Digital or scanned photos are acceptable as long as they are of good quality and the animal's markings are clear.

The 4-H Horse Committee encourages 4-H members to complete the appropriate forms for any horse they may have an interest or possibility of riding. It is better to have an agreement on file for a horse as a backup precaution, than to have no back up at all. **If a horse is injured or dies, it may ONLY be replaced by a horse whose paperwork is already on file by the May 1 deadline.**

Please note that a horse can only be exhibited by one person at the Illinois State Fair AND the Ogle County 4-H Fair. Knowing this, paperwork on a single horse for the Illinois State Fair and the Ogle County 4-H Fair cannot be on file by two individuals.

In addition to your horse lease or horse ownership forms being turned in on **May 1**, **YOU MUST also turn in a copy of your required negative Coggins paperwork on this date.** State health requirements say any equine 12 months and older participating in an advertised equine event (i.e. a show, rodeo, sale, auction, exhibition, trail ride, or horse fair that is posted or media promoted) shall be accompanied by a NEGATIVE TEST for Equine Infectious Anemia/E.I.A. (Coggins/CELISA) conducted within ONE (1) year. 4-H'ers should also bring a copy of their negative Coggins papers on the day of show. If your Coggins expires between May 1 and show day, you must turn in the paperwork that is valid on May 1.

4-H members planning on participating in the 4-H Fair horse shows are required to complete the Quality Assurance Ethics Certification via the web. 4-H members are only required to complete this program once in their 4-H career to be eligible for the county fair shows. Ogle County 4-H'ers have until **May 1** to complete this course. Please log into your ZSuite account and click on Clover Academy.

Lastly, please note the policy on helmets: "All 4-H members are required to wear a properly fitted ASTM or SEI standard F1163 (or above) certified equestrian helmet whenever mounted or driving at all 4-H horse and pony events, shows, activities, or practices. Original tags must be present in all approved helmets. The 4-H member is responsible to see that this specified headgear is properly fitted with the

approved harness fastened in place whenever mounted. Helmet policies apply to all county, area, and state 4-H horse and pony events, shows, and activities. Protective helmets are recommended for all riders and drivers at all times. It is recommended that all adults working with 4-H members model the desired youth behavior by also wearing protective helmets whenever mounted or driving.”

To recap, due to the Ogle County Extension Office by **May 1** is:

- Ogle County 4-H Horse Lease Agreements or Ogle County 4-H Certificates of Horse Ownership
- Quality Assurance & Ethics Certification (if not previously completed)
- Negative Coggins Paperwork

For every horse you plan to exhibit at the Ogle County 4-H Fair and/or the Illinois State Fair.

If you have any questions please feel free to give our office a call.

Sincerely,



Jodi Baumgartner
Program Coordinator
4-H Youth Development

Enclosures