

4-H Area Horse Show Hardship Exemption Information

DEADLINES:

- **March 2, 2026**
 - Exemption request form must be completed (including County Agent signature) and **received** by the State 4-H Horse Program Coordinator (imatwist@ufl.edu or PO Box 110910 Gainesville, FL 32611)
- **March 16, 2026**
 - Decisions on exemption acceptance will be sent out to those who submitted requests
- **June 15, 2026**
 - All documentation for alternative horse shows and educational events must be submitted to the State 4-H Horse Program Coordinator (imatwist@ufl.edu)
 - Please be sure to include 4-Her's name in the email

Acceptable horse shows must meet the following requirements:

- Be completed during the current 4-H year (on or after September 1st, 2025)
- If your county has a requirement to participate in a show to qualify for the Area Show, the same show cannot be used to meet both your county's eligibility for Area and your Area's eligibility for State
- Can be any discipline/type of show (i.e. rodeo, breed show, open show, benefit show, etc.)
- Appropriate documentation includes class placings, high points results, entry confirmation/receipt, etc.

Below is the list of acceptable horse educational events:

- Horse-related Presentation or Demonstration (County level minimum)
- Horse-related Public Speaking (County level minimum)
- Horse Judging (Florida State Fair Contest and/or State Horse Judging Contest)
- Hippology Contest (State level minimum)
- Horse Quiz Bowl (State level minimum)
- Appropriate documentation can be entry confirmation and/or placings/results

*For contest specifics, please visit our website at <https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/youth/horse/>

4-H Area Horse Show Hardship Exemption Application

This application is for youth that are not able to attend an Area Horse Show but still want to attend the State Horse Show. Applications will be considered on a case by case basis after reviewing the hardship given. Potential hardships can include, but are not limited to, event conflicts and distance of travel. If accepted, the youth and project horse combination must provide proof of the following in order to be eligible for the State Horse Show: **two (2)** horse shows and **one (1)** horse educational event.

Youth Name: _____ County: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Reason for exemption request:

Shows you plan to attend (name, location, date):

Show 1: _____

Show 2: _____

For what educational contest have you registered? _____

County Agent Endorsement (signature): _____

If accepted, the youth and project horse combination must provide proof of the following in order to be eligible for the State Horse Show: **two (2)** horse shows and **one (1)** horse educational event. Horse shows and educational contests **MUST** be completed on your current 4-H project horse and during the **current 4-H year**. For acceptable alternative events, documentation clarification, and deadlines, please see the exemption informational flyer or contact Alyssa Ohmstede at imatwist@ufl.edu.