

## Rhode Island 4-H Substitute Horse Project Guidelines

1. All 4-H members who wish to qualify as a delegate in the 4-H Horse Program at the Eastern States Exposition must either own or manage their horse as a 4-H project prior to **April 1<sup>st</sup>** of the current year. A separate RI 4-H Horse Verification Form must be on file in the State Office by **April 1<sup>st</sup>** for the member's primary horse and any substitute horses that the 4-Her wishes to use as a backup project horse for ESE. There will be no exceptions. Lease documentation for each horse must be attached to the Verification form when it is submitted.
2. A 4-H member may have up to three (3) substitute horses registered with the State 4-H Office. A RI 4-H Horse Verification Form and lease documentation when appropriate must be on file for each substitute horse. A picture of substitute horse(s) must accompany verification form, along with a current copy of their coggins and rabies certificates if available (coggins and rabies certificates can be submitted later in the season for ESE). 4-H Horse Records must be kept on project horse and all substitute horse(s) from April 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
3. If a 4-H member's project horse becomes disabled prior to August 1<sup>st</sup>, the 4-H member can use a registered project substitute horse to qualify for Eastern States. However, the member must first submit to the state 4-H office a letter from their veterinarian stating why this horse will not be able to participate at the State 4-H Show and the Eastern States Exposition. A RI Pattern Test will be required with the approved substitute horse and must be completed prior to August 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. No substitute horse will be allowed to participate at the Big E after ESE entry forms are submitted to State Office for the Big E unless death or permanent injury of initial project horse occurs. A veterinarian's certificate indicating either of the above situations must be submitted to the State 4-H Office for approval (at least 5 days before event if possible). This process will apply for all substitute horses. If the project horse has been deemed disabled, and the veterinarian determines that the animal will never be able to perform to his full capacity again, then substitute horse is allowed. The original project horse that was submitted on the entry form **cannot** be used for Eastern States competitions in the future.
5. Should project horse become disabled or die **after** entries have been submitted to Eastern States by the State 4-H Office, the request for substitution and documentation may be submitted to the State 4-H Office who will confer with the New England 4-H Program Horse Committee for a decision. A delegate may also choose to participate as a Junior Leader if they so desire. However, delegate may not participate in both rider and junior leader positions in the same year.
6. Should member need to use their substitute horse, they **must** pass the Pattern Test. **There will be no exceptions.** If a substitution is approved after the RI Pattern Test is held, arrangements will be made for a qualifying test for the substitute horse.