

**4-H CLUB GOALS and GUIDELINES**  
**HOOPICKS 4-H CLUB WILLIAMSON COUNTY**  
2005-2006

**Our goal** for the Hoofpicks 4-H Club Williamson County is to provide as many educational and leadership opportunities as possible for youth including, but not limited to: Open Horse Shows, Horse Judging Team, Horse Quiz Bowl, preparation for District and State 4-H Horse Shows, A&M clinics, field trips, presentations, demonstrations, training sessions, and community service. As a goal, we will keep youth and their families informed of the many opportunities 4-H offers at the county, district, state and national level: other clubs and project information, camps, clinics, competitions, scholarships and leadership opportunities.

**Club membership requirements:** Junior 4-H members must be at least 9 years or be in the third grade. Senior 4-H members must be at least 14 years and must not have passed their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday before August 31<sup>st</sup> of the current 4-H year.

**Texas 4-H is recognized by the Texas Education Agency as an approved extracurricular activity and is therefore subject to House Bill 72 “No Pass/No Play” guidelines. In order to participate in competitive activities, a member must provide proof of scholastic eligibility at each such activity.**

All youth members and adult volunteers will complete a 4-H Enrollment Form and pay \$3 dues every year before participating in any club activities. Background checks are required for all adult members at an additional cost of \$10 to be paid upon enrollment. All members and adults will complete a 4-H Checklist upon joining as a pledge of commitment to their club.

Members are expected to attend 50% of regular club meetings in order to participate in club activities. All officers are expected to attend 2/3 of our monthly club meetings (6 of the 10 meetings) throughout the year. You can't do your job if you're not there. An officer who misses 3 meetings will be asked if they are committed to continuing with the responsibilities of their elected office.

**Hoofpicks goals and activities for the Club year:**

- ◆ Monthly meetings will be held on the last Tuesday evening of each month. Meetings will begin with business issues followed by an educational program.
- ◆ We plan to provide 2 riding sessions per month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays from 2:30-4:30pm at the show barn in Georgetown. Customary charge is \$10 for the 2 hour session. Our training sessions are reserved for youth members only.
- ◆ Hoofpicks will hold three open horse shows yearly as our primary fund raisers. These shows are open to the public and youth members may show or work many different jobs at the shows as learning experiences. Members will collect sponsorships from area businesses and friends of 4-H to underwrite show expenses. Prizes will be awarded to the club members who bring in the most show sponsorships. Hoofpicks may hold other fund raisers as needed throughout the year. All members and adult volunteers are needed and everyone's help is appreciated with all fund raising efforts.
- ◆ Hoofpicks will initiate and participate in a minimum of three community service projects each year. In addition, service projects are set up county and statewide. Doing things for others, not just ourselves, is an important aspect of 4-H and Hoofpicks. All members and adult volunteers should contribute their time and energy to these worthwhile efforts.

◆Hoofpicks has an active and successful Horse Judging Team. The team travels to competitions throughout the year with the goal of representing Williamson County at the 4-H District 8 contest. Guidelines covering team issues will be provided to each member interested in joining the Horse Judging Team. All club members are welcomed and encouraged to participate in judging practices and field trips as learning experiences, even if they're not ready to judge competitively.

◆Planned social events include a Christmas party, picnic/trail rides, and an awards presentation at the end of the club year.

◆The A&M summer camp for youth will be scheduled every year as early as possible in June. This is a very popular camp and attendance is limited.

◆ Youth members in good standing may receive recognition through Awards and Scholarships for outstanding contributions and commitment to the club throughout the year. These include scholarships for State level competition and the A&M summer horsemanship camp.

◆In an effort to reduce costs and increase efficiency, most club news will be communicated via email and our club website over the internet. Additionally, the Club By-Laws, Guidelines and other information will be made available on-line. The email and phone lists are to be used for club communication between members ONLY. Members must be responsible to regularly check for email updates as all dates are subject to change. Link to the Williamson County 4-H website for lots of information: <http://williamson-tx.tamu.edu/>

**Our youth membership is diverse in their interests.** The riding sessions will focus on horsemanship so that each youth can receive instruction that will further their skills. Our goal is to provide affordable training that will benefit the least experienced to the most experienced rider with an emphasis on safety. Our guest trainers will give attention to each youth as needed to provide the safest possible learning environment for all riders. However, all riders will need to show proficiency in handling their horse on the ground and tacking up, as well as being able to control their horse once they're in the saddle, before participating in group training sessions. Green riders and green horses are not a safe combination. Parents must be responsible for the safety of their youth and are expected to be present during riding sessions to check equipment and assist as needed. Riders are to be ready; horses tacked and warmed up before the scheduled start time of riding sessions.

**Barn Rules: Do not tie any horses to the arena railing. Do not bring stallions to the show barn. Leave the barn cleaner than you found it. Medical and Liability Release forms must be completed for every rider. Proof of current negative coggins is required for every horse brought onto the grounds.**

**4-H is a family oriented organization.** With family support our youth can achieve high goals. There are many opportunities 4-H offers to club members and adult volunteers to participate in Club activities and attend 4-H sponsored training as available. Adult volunteers may assist young/inexperienced riders, serve on a committee, participate in fund raisers and other community service projects, develop relationships with youths and their families, and in many ways be instrumental in the success of our youth and their Club. All members and adults should help and become a support system of encouragement to each other. Senior 4-H members are especially encouraged to become Teen Leaders and actively:

- ◆participate as officers of the club,
- ◆ coordinate community service projects,
- ◆give method demonstrations,



WILLIAMSON COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROJECT  
GRIEVANCE APPEAL PROCESS

1. If you have a concern/disagreement with something, bring it to the adult club managers.
2. If you have a concern/disagreement with someone, talk to them directly.
3. If your problem has not been resolved after steps 1. or 2., you will be asked to sign the Agreement Contract below. You may then request that the club managers hold an adult meeting, so that the issues can be discussed openly with the group. Once everyone has voiced their opinions, the group will refer to the guidelines and by-laws to make a decision based on the best interests and needs of the youth as a priority.
4. If a problem persists, you may request that a County Extension Agent mediate with the club managers and any individuals involved in the issue.
5. We are all only human. Every effort and opportunity will be made to resolve conflict, but continued negativity is destructive to the Club. The determining factors will be the rules of the Texas 4-H Program. If you fail to respect those decisions, you may be asked to leave the Club.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (as a 4-H parent/adult volunteer), do hereby agree to follow all rules of the Texas 4-H Program. I further agree to respect all leadership decisions. I will take full responsibility for my child or children and their actions. If I have a negative comment or concern, I will follow the written appeal process outlined above. I understand the objectives of 4-H are based on youth development.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date