

4-H and OHSET Cooperative Agreement

4-H and OHSET have reached the following cooperative agreement:

Both organizations agree that many participating youth belong to OHSET and 4-H. Both programs have unique opportunities for high school youth and can operate complementary to each other with a small amount of communication; this communication will allow youth the benefit of both programs.

Identified Challenges

- The 4-H 90-day rule. Not allowing other high school equestrian athletes to ride or share horses for the purpose of OHSET competition can create a hardship on a team/athlete who qualifies for the state competition. The state competition is usually the third week in May and can be closer than 90 days to some county fairs.
- Scheduling. OHSET has eight districts and each requires 3 district meets. Many of the participants in OHSET and 4-H activities are the same. County 4-H staff and District chairs need to work together to avoid major conflicts when possible. Additionally, the 4-H Spring Horse Classic (SHC) is during the OHSET season and meet conflicts with SHC have created significant challenges.
- Year-round drill teams. As 4-H begins to allow county programs to have 4-H drill teams, there is concern that this may simply be an avenue for OHSET drill teams to practice year-round.

Solutions

- The 4-H 90-day rule. Oregon 4-H will allow an exception so that other OHSET athletes may ride a 4-Her's horse for the sake of practice and OHSET state meet competition. This exception is only valid through the end of the OHSET State Championship Meet.
- Scheduling. OHSET District Chairs will identify the county 4-H staff responsible for horse programming in their district, and will communicate with them in order to make every possible effort to avoid scheduling important county horse events at the same time as district meets. Spring Horse Classic will continue to be on the same general dates as in the majority of previous years, the **fourth** weekend in April. Of course, all of this depends on the ability to get facilities (for both 4-H and OHSET) on days not infringing on the other's event.
- Year-round drill teams. It will remain the duty of OHSET coaches and District Chairs to determine if OHSET teams are practicing outside of their season. However, establishing a relationship with county 4-H staff, as stated above, will allow opportunity for 4-H staff to let District Chairs know if they have a 4-H drill team that appears to be all OHSET members from one team.

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