

Horse Validation Information – Instructions for Families

- ***NEW IN 2026*** - All horses are now family validated under a family profile. Any eligible 4-H members in the family profile are eligible to show the validated horses in the family profile.
- ALL horses must be validated/re-validated each year.
- Horse validation is completed for EACH HORSE and will cover all 4-H youth members in the family profile.
- All youth MUST have an active Texas 4-H Member ID before attempting to add members to your family or validate horses. You can find your member ID in 4-H Online under your “Profile” tab.
- Registration papers for registered horses MUST be uploaded.
- In order to be eligible for breed specific awards, correct registration papers for that breed must be uploaded. If the horse is registered with more than one association, it must be indicated in Texas Show Pass at the time of validation and multiple sets of registration papers can be uploaded.
- If registration papers are in the process of being transferred, list PENDING in the “Registration Number” field. The transfer process MUST be completed and submitted to the state office BEFORE May 1st, or the horse will be ineligible to compete at the District and State 4-H Horse Shows.
- The correct owner MUST be listed on the registration papers and match the Texas Show Pass system.
- Horse owners MUST be the youth, parent (biological or stepparent), brother, sister, grandparent, or legal guardian if the horse is not leased.
- Horses owned in partnership or jointly with any other person not listed above do NOT meet ownership requirements.
- Lease horses are now eligible to be validated and shown at District and State 4-H Horse Shows. An official Texas 4-H Horse Lease Agreement must be signed by the exhibitor, horse owner, and the supervising County Extension Agent. The lease period must include, at minimum, May 1st to August 31st of the current 4-H year. The lease form must be uploaded to Texas Show Pass at the time of validation.
- Youth showing futurity horses MUST be 12 years old or older and in at least the 6th grade, as of September 1st of the current 4-H year.
- There is no limit to the number of horses that can be validated. You are encouraged to validate all horses that may possibly be shown at district and/or state shows. Only state validated horses can be substituted in the event that a validated horse becomes unusable due to lameness, sickness, etc.
- More information on Texas 4-H Horse Validation can be found on page 7 of the 2026 Texas 4-H Horse Show Rules and Regulations document at <https://texasyouthlivestock.com/horse-validation/> or at <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/horse/>.

All classes at the State 4-H Horse Show are open to eligible 4-H youth. Participation at the District 4-H Horse Show is not required but is encouraged; with the exception that a futurity project horse must be shown at the district horse show, district educational clinic, or other equivalent event where the project horse is present, in order to qualify for a futurity class at the state show. Participation must be verified by the County Extension Agent on the State 4-H Horse Show entry form.

PAYMENT AND STATUS

ANIMAL VALIDATION CAN ONLY BE PAID FOR WITH A CREDIT CARD.

- The family can submit payment of \$10.00 per horse (\$20.00 after April 15th, or \$250 from May 1st to May 5th), in the form of a **credit card ONLY**.
 - From March 1 – April 15, the validation cost for each horse is \$10.00. **The payment must be processed and completed by the April 15th deadline.**
 - From April 16 – May 1, the validation cost for each horse is \$20.00. **The payment must be processed and completed by the May 1st deadline.**
 - ***NEW IN 2026*** - Families may add and save all of their horses to their profile and then pay for all horses in one card transaction! Check out the walk-through video and validation guide at <https://texasyouthlivestock.com/horse-validation/> for more information.
- Any validation that has a status of “Pending Submission” is not guaranteed the amount at the time it was created and is not yet considered submitted for validation.
- Validation will close on May 5th, and validations will not be accepted after that date. No exceptions will be made.
- Your validation will be reviewed at the county and state levels. You can track the status of your validation on Texas Show Pass under the “Horses” tab. You will be notified by June 1st if there are any issues with your validation at the state level. If your horse validation has an issue to be corrected, it will show an “Issue Reported” status next to the horse in your profile with details on the issue that must be resolved before being re-submitted.

If you have questions about Texas 4-H Horse Validation, please contact your County Extension Agent.

For helpful one-pagers and resources, please visit: <https://texasyouthlivestock.com/horse-validation/>