



Horse Project



The 4-H Horse project is part of the animal science education program. The program will teach you how to care, train, and ride horses. Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning or leasing, feeding, managing, training, and keeping records on the horse. Demonstrate knowledge about horse breeds and characteristics, health and safety, riding and showmanship skills, and using correct equipment. Appreciate riding as a recreation and promote animal well-being through humane treatment.

Inspire Kids to Do

Explore

"I might like to do this."

Youth who explore a variety of interests before high school, through experiences like 4-H camps and educational events, can develop early interest in a career path and improve their academic performance.

Learn

"I can do this."

4-H project-based learning, guided by adult volunteers, improves youth understanding of skills and concepts, as well as their ability to problem-solve and collaborate.

Practice

"I'm interested in this."

Youth who have participated in sustained hands-on learning and engaged with professional mentors and volunteers before entering high school are more likely to explore studies and potential career paths.

Experience

"I will be this."

Real-world application is key — 91% of Kansas 4-H members have a plan for reaching their goals. Youth that have been active participants in hands-on learning, combined with strong decision-making skills, are more able to effectively navigate life.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Learn the breeds of horses.
- Identify parts of the horse.
- Lead and ride a horse safely.
- Learn what a horse eats and keep track of time spent feeding and training the horse.
- Brush and wash horse.
- Learn signs of sickness.
- Explore uses of the horse.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Identify conformational defaults.
- Learn safe handling practices and practice horsemanship skills.
- Understand horse gaits and learn riding basics and styles.
- Discover digestion process and explore nutritional needs.
- Recognize health issues.
- Learn the value of horse in the U.S.
- Document project work.

Expanding Horizons *Advanced*

- Study genetics and heredity and learn reproduction practices.
- Improve horsemanship skills.
- Explore nutritional ailments and learn quality forages.
- Develop preventative vaccination schedule.
- Acquire horse training skills.
- Study hoof care, trimming.
- Develop a business plan.

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Expand Your Experiences!

Healthy Living

- Study the health benefits gained from riding a horse.
- Improve riding techniques through strengthening core muscles.
- Explore biosecurity measures needed when handling horses.

Science and Agriculture

- Study the body and skeleton structures of the horse.
- Research the digestive, respiratory, organ, and endocrine systems of the horse.
- Explore variations of horse feeds and compare differences in ingredients.
- Examine the height of a jump based upon the trajectory of a horse.

Community Vitality

- Serve as a junior/ teen leader mentoring others in the horse project.
- Coordinate an educational tour for project youth visiting an equine facility or therapy center.
- Volunteer services at an equine therapy center.

Communication and the Arts

- Create a poster showing the different breeds, colors, or patterns of horses.
- Demonstrate how to use and care for horse showing equipment, western and English.
- Write a story on the importance of vaccinating horses for preventing diseases.
- Teach safe riding techniques to a younger 4-H member.

Career Development

- Visit a horse farm to discover employment opportunities.
- Interview a horse trainer.
- Attend, watch, and participate in horse shows, contests.
- Research breed associations.
- Explore the [K-State Animal Science Department](#), visit the equine facilities.

Local Contact Information

Resources and Events	Curriculum and Resources	4-H Record Keeping	Project Exhibit Ideas
<p>Participating in educational events and learning opportunities will expand your knowledge and skills in the project area. Contact your local K-State Research and Extension office for local opportunities. Take part in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Horse Panorama and Equifest 	<p>Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your local extension office or you can order directly from the 4-H Mall.</p> <p>National Horse Curriculum</p> <p>Kansas 4-H Horse Project page</p> <p>K-State Horse Unit</p>	<p>Learning to keep accurate records is a life skill. The following forms can help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting 4-H Project Goals (4H1100) • Kansas 4-H Record Keeping 	<p>Design a poster explaining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the leg bones, tendons • hoof structure • the horse's eye, ears • equipment: Western, English • breeds, colors, patterns <p>Participate in Horse Shows. Contests – photo, logo, poster.</p> <p>Public speaking, interviews.</p> <p>Project notebooks.</p> <p>Award recognition.</p>