

# Alleghan County 4-H Cloverbud Horse Sheets

## HEALTH CARE



Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status.

## Health Care

The horse depends upon the person caring for it for its health and well being.

These items are very important to the horse:

- Clean stables and equipment.
- Clean, good quality feed and water.
- Proper fit of tack.
- Adequate exercise.
- Avoid exposure to disease.
- Eliminate hazards around the stable and pasture.

Regular care must be given the horse to keep it healthy. This includes.

- Hoofs trimmed or shod every 6-8 weeks.
- Annual vaccinations for tetanus, sleeping sickness and influenza.
- Other vaccinations as needed.
- Worming three or four times a year.
- Examining teeth to see if they need floating (filing off the sharp points) once a year.

Horses may also need special care for breeding, foaling, illness or injury.

### Foot Care:

A horse must be able to move; therefore, good feet and legs are necessary.

The important points in the care of a horse's feet are to:

- Keep them clean.
- Prevent them from drying out.
- Trim them so they retain proper shape and length.
- Shoe them correctly when shoes are needed.

### Clean the Feet

The horse's feet should be cleaned each day with a hoof pick.

### Trimming

The hoofs should be trimmed every 6-8 weeks whether the animal is shod or not. A farrier (person who shoes horses) should be consulted or should do the trimming.

### Shoes

Metal shoes protect the feet of horses that work on roads, hard surfaces or rocky ground.

Light shoes, weighing about 8 ounces are the most commonly used shoes on horses.

Shoes may be used to change gaits, aid in gripping the ground, correct faulty hoof structure or growth, and protect the hoof from such conditions as corns, contraction or cracks.



### Get Acquainted with the Veterinarian

The veterinarian is the "family doctor" for the horse. He will be willing to help plan and carry out a health program that will include worming, disease prevention, breeding records and problems and general first aid practices.

Proper treatment of diseases, injuries and parasites depends on two very important things: knowing what the problem is and knowing what to do about it. The veterinarian knows what health and first aid measures can be safely handled by his clients and he will teach the proper procedure.

The 4-H member can work with the veterinarian to learn everything necessary for general care of the horse: how to recognize health troubles; what to do in case of sickness or injury before help can arrive; simple treatment and remedies that are safe to follow.

A veterinarian is a doctor who  
takes care of horses.  
Color the veterinarian.



Have you ever met a veterinarian?

THE VETERINARIAN VISITS

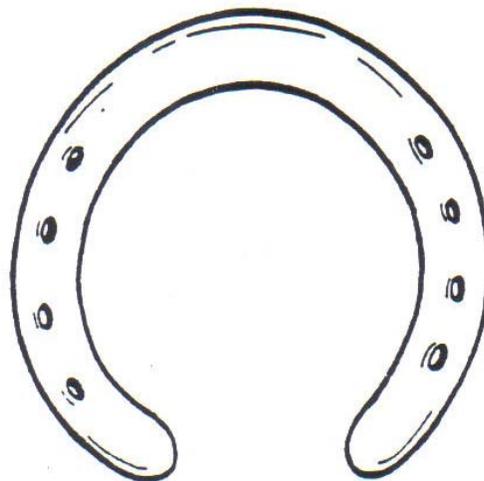


Horses need good shoes.

Color the horse with his new shoes.

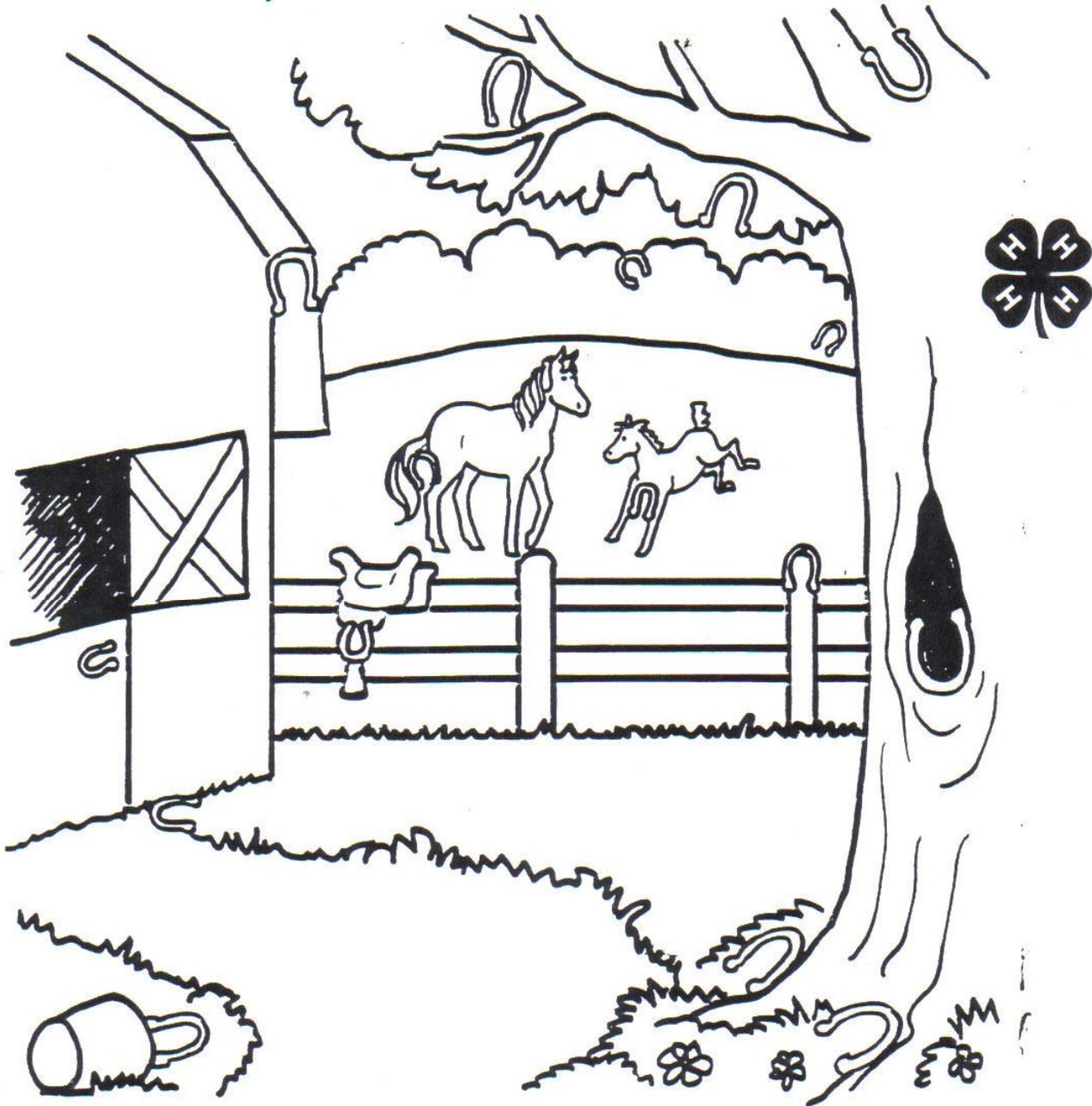


Count the nail holes in this horse shoe.





**BLACKSMITH AT WORK**



There are 16 missing horseshoes—  
can you find them all?

**HORSESHOE HUNT**

How many  
horseshoes  
can you find?



COLOR THIS STOCK TYPE HORSE BAY WITH A BLAZE AND LEFT FRONT SOCK.

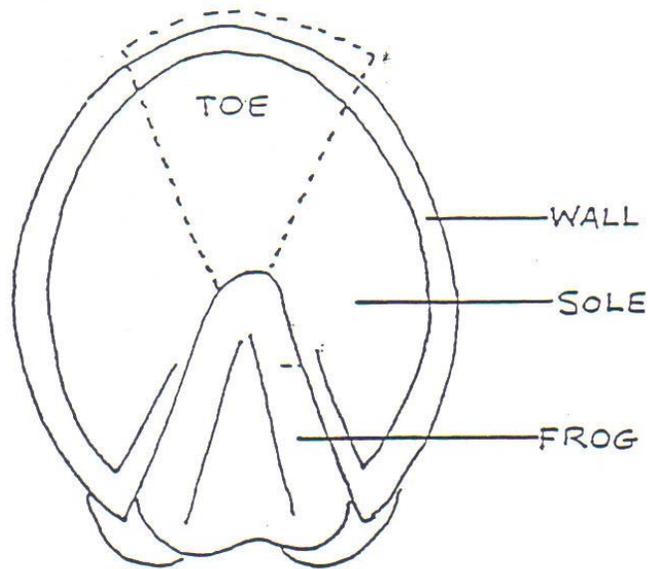


A POPULAR SAYING AMONG HORSE PEOPLE IS "NO HOOF, NO HORSE." CARE OF THE FEET IS VERY IMPORTANT. A GOOD FARRIER SHOULD KEEP HORSES HOOVES THE PROPER LENGTH AND IF A HORSE IS RIDDEN A GOOD DEAL ON HARD OR ROCKY SURFACES, SHOES SHOULD BE USED. HORSES HOOVES SHOULD BE CLEANED AND CHECKED FOR STONES BEFORE AND AFTER RIDING.

# THE HOOF AND ITS CARE



Alleghan County 4-H Programs



A  'S HOOF IS VERY IMPORTANT  
 IT SHOULD  CLEANED EVERY DAY  
 WITH A  PICK. ALL MANURE  
 AND ST  SHOULD BE REMOVED.  
 WHEN USING THE HOOF PICK, CLEAN  
 A  BOTH SIDES OF THE   
 IN OUTWARD MOTIONS.