

4-H Horse & Pony Project



SNAPSHOT 4H1614



CURRICULA & RESOURCES

Michigan Resources

- » Michigan Equine News: www.equinenews.msu.edu
- » Michigan State University Department of Animal Science, Horse Youth Programs: http://www.ans.msu.edu/youth_extension_programs/horse_youth_programs
- » Michigan State University Extension eXtension, Horses: www.eXtension.org/horses
- » My Horse University: www.myhorseuniversity.com

National 4-H Curricula

- www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-horse
- » Set of 6 Horse Books (08059) includes:
 - Giddy Up and Go (08053)
 - Head, Heart and Hooves (08054)
 - Stable Relationships (08055)
 - Riding the Range (08056)
 - Jumping to New Heights (08057)
 - Helper's Guide (08058)

Other Resources

- » American Quarter Horse Association and the American Youth Horse Council's Junior Master Horseman: www.juniormasterhorseman.com
- » Oregon 4-H Horse Leader Guide, Oregon State University Extension: <http://www.ans.msu.edu/uploads/files/Oregon%20Ldr%20Guide.pdf>

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The 4-H horse and pony project can provide youth with the opportunity to learn about care, selection, management, health, marketing and careers in the equine industry.

- » Learn the basic principles of animal science by caring for, working with, keeping records or owning a horse, pony, donkey or mule.
- » Explore knowledge of sound management, nutrition, reproduction and selection practices.
- » Discover how you can start a career in the equine industry.



THE BIG PICTURE

Starting Out:

- » Identify colors, breeds and types of equines.
- » Identify parts of the animal.
- » Practice safe handling of animals.
- » Learn appropriate grooming techniques.
- » Practice good sportsmanship.

Learning More:

- » Describe the signs of a healthy animal.
- » Explore potential careers in the equine industry.
- » Join a horse bowl, horse judging or hippology team.
- » Take riding lessons.

Expanding Horizons:

- » Mentor a newer club member.
- » Job shadow a professional in the equine industry.
- » Conduct a judging or riding clinic with your club.
- » Examine and discuss ethics related to the equine industry.

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FOCUS ON HORSES, PONIES, DONKEYS, & MULES

Science

- » Ask questions and formulate potential answers related to biology, nutrition, genetics and physiology, using equines as a model.
- » Observe the physiological and behavioral effects of illness on an animal's body.
- » Explore the equine reproductive cycle.

Citizenship & Leadership

- » Develop a public speaking or demonstration entry for the Michigan 4-H Equine Communication Contest.
- » Mentor a cloverbud who is new to the Michigan horse and pony project.

Communication

- » Deliver oral reasons as a part of a horse judging team.
- » Communicate the importance of responsible horse care to the general public.
- » Create and perform a demonstration that explains how to perform a specific skill properly in horse care and management.

Life Skills

- » Use critical-thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills to help you make good decisions about project management.
- » Keep records on your project expenses and income.
- » Practice personal resiliency through successes and challenges in your project.



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- » Contact your local Michigan State University (MSU) Extension office for workshops, activities and events.
- » Join a local 4-H club.
- » Tour a horse farm. Try the MSU Horse Teaching and Research Center, which is open to the public five days a week (www.msuarabians.com).
- » Attend a horse show, and observe the participants and judges and their techniques.
- » Write an educational article for production in your local newspaper about an aspect of the equine or livestock industry.
- » Participate in a horse bowl, hippology or horse judging contest.
- » Job shadow a local veterinarian to learn more about animal health.
- » Attend a state-level 4-H horse event such as the State 4-H Horse Show, State 4-H Horse Jamboree or State 4-H Trail Ride. Visit http://www.ans.msu.edu/youth_extension_programs/horse_youth_programs for many more opportunities.
- » Complete a horse project record book to track your experiences in 4-H.
- » If you are interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine, visit MSU's website at www.msu.edu to explore those majors.

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