



4-H HORSE AND PONY PROJECT



In this project, youth will take part in a wide variety of 4-H equine projects including breeding, draft, drill, driving, English & western, gymkhana, judging, miniature, trail riding, and ponies. Horses and humans interact in many ways, not only in a wide variety of sports and non-competitive recreational pursuits, but in activities like agriculture, entertainment, assisted learning, and therapy.

- Appreciate riding as a recreation and promote love and humane treatment of animals.
- Learn horsemanship skills and understand equestrian breeding, training, and raising.
- Acquire safety skills to prevent injury to persons and animals.

4-H THRIVE

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

Goal Selection: Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

Pursue Strategies: Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

Shift Gears: Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character or establish connections.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Learn the breeds of horses.
- Identify the parts of a horse.
- Study the nutritional needs of a horse.
- Explore horse diseases and how to prevent and/or treat illness and injury.
- Identify and know the functions of tack and equipment.
- Understand the basic care practices of horses.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Learn the basics of riding a horse in one of many styles like Western or English.
- Research the different types of horse showmanship and competitions.
- Find out how to clean horse tack.
- Practice riding safely with a group.
- Improve your riding skills in the ring and on trails.

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Assist younger members in improving their horse knowledge.
- Improve your show and/or riding performance.
- Plan and conduct an experiment in horse care.
- Learn about horse diseases and their treatment.
- Improve your showmanship patterns.
- Learn about and evaluate ethics in showing.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.



Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Explore various horse feeds and compare differences in ingredients.
- Design an experiment to see which saddle pad material keeps the horse the coolest.
- Examine the height of a jump on the trajectory of a horse.
- Learn about and help with restoration of horse trails.

Healthy Living

- Create a presentation to teach young riders how to safely care for, handle, and ride horses.
- Compare nutritional needs of horses to those of humans and other mammals.
- Explore the need for biosecurity measures when handling livestock. Create a list of recommendations for competitive equine events.

Citizenship

- Collaborate with others to provide a horse therapy event for disabled youth.
- Learn about various horse breeds and trace their heritage to understand other cultures.
- As your expertise grows, offer to judge at horse shows for youth.

Leadership

- Teach others the importance of caring for another animal.
- Use your new skills and knowledge to relay hippology to younger peers.
- Become a role model for others by taking the position of Junior or Teen Leader.

Resources

- eXtension
www.extension.org/horses
- Certified Horsemanship Association
www.cha-ahse.org
- California Dept. of Food and Agriculture
www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/
- UC Davis Veterinary Medicine
www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ceh/
- Harvest of the Month
www.harvestofthemonth.com
- 4-H Safety Manual
[//safety.ucanr.org/files/3067.pdf](http://safety.ucanr.org/files/3067.pdf)

Connections & Events

Horse Classic Championship Horse Show & Educational Contests – Compete at a level beyond local events, while the educational contests allow members to showcase their equine knowledge.
http://4h.ucanr.edu/4-H_Events/Horse_Classic/

State 4-H Equine Field Day
http://4h.ucanr.edu/4-H_Events/4H_Equine_Field_Day/

Contact your UC Cooperative Extension office to determine additional opportunities available.

Curriculum

- National 4-H Curriculum - www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-horse/
- Ohio State University - [//estore.osu-extension.org/showproducts.cfm?Step=1&FullCat=197](http://estore.osu-extension.org/showproducts.cfm?Step=1&FullCat=197)
- University of Wisconsin - www.uwex.edu/ces/animalscience/horse/links.cfm

4-H Record Book

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit <http://ucanr.edu/orb/>

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University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Communication Services
2801 Second Street
Davis, CA 95618
Telephone 1-800-994-8849
E-mail: anrcatalog@ucanr.edu

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California 4-H Project Sheet Series Authors

JOHN BORBA, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Kern County; CLAUDIA DIAZ, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside and San Bernardino counties; MARCEL HOROWITZ, Healthy Youth, Families, and Communities Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Yolo County; ANNE IACCOPUCCI, 4-H Healthy Living Academic Coordinator, California State 4-H Office; SHANNON KLISCH; UC CalFresh Community Education Supervisor, UC Cooperative Extension, San Luis Obispo County; KENDRA LEWIS, 4-H Evaluation Academic Coordinator, California State 4-H Office; KATHERINE SOULE, Youth, Families, and Communities Advisor and Director of UC Cooperative Extension, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties; and STEVEN WORKER, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Marin, Napa, and Sonoma counties.

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