4-H Horse Project

Are you Into It?

Horse & Pony is a project area you can participate in whether you own a horse or not!

Horse and Pony is an exciting 4-H project area because you can participate whether you own a horse or not! Discover all the aspects about raising and riding horses.
- Appreciate riding as recreation
- Learn horsemanship skills and understand breeding, training, and raising of horses as a business
- Acquire skills in horse management by owning and being responsible for an animal
- Acquire safety skills to prevent injury to persons and animals

Here’s what you can do all year!

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<td>Learn the basics of trail riding</td>
<td>Research and purchase show clothing</td>
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<td>Identify parts of a horse</td>
<td>Check horse vital signs</td>
<td>Improve a show horse’s appearance</td>
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<td>Learn breeds of horses</td>
<td>Learn how to mount and dismount safely</td>
<td>Improve your showmanship pattern</td>
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<td>Learn the gaits of the horse</td>
<td>Etiquette to ride safely as a group</td>
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<td>Understand horse reproduction parts</td>
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<td>Learn about genetics and heredity of horses</td>
<td>Practicing horsemanship maneuvers</td>
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<td>Investigate horse diseases</td>
<td>Improve your riding style</td>
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Citizenship/Leadership
- Assist with the 4-H horse show at the county fair
- Participate in the local saddle club charitable benefit
- Ask friends to always wear a helmet when riding horses
- Explore therapeutic riding and horse rescue opportunities

Communication
- Present about parts of a horse
- Send a Letter to the Editor describing your opinion regarding an ethical horse situation
- Present a riding safety session at your county 4-H horse workouts prior to county fair

Healthy Living
- Keep a record of how long and how often you rode your horse
- Learn proper stretching and warm-up techniques to increase your balance and core strength

Science
- Learn how a bit works by understanding pressure points and leverage works
- Learn how a horse’s confirmation will dictate their movement and discipline
- Learn how a horse digests its food mechanically and chemically

Learn more at florida4h.org or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office
Expand Your Experiences in Horse

Here are other opportunities to explore Horses:

- Attend a horse show, rodeo, or other horse event
- Visit a horse farm, horse training facility, horse boarding facility, etc.
- Participate in a horse riding camp
- Visit a local tack shop or horse supply store
- Check out horse events on television to learn about different type of horse shows and events
- Create a collection of horse showmanship and horsemanship patterns
- Keep a diary of your practices each week
- Research horse-related careers
- Give a public speech or team demonstration or compete with a painting, poster, photograph, drawing, essay, poetry, scrapbook, digital story, clothes article, woodworking piece or a model horse
- Participate in a community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Is it fair time? Consider riding in your County Fair horse show or the Florida State Fair.
- Attend Florida 4-H University and participate in workshops, listen to motivational speakers, and participate in a community service project: http://florida4h.org/programsandevents/

Check out all the resources at UF Animal Science Youth Program website:
http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/

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**Resources**

**4-H Project Resources**

- Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your county 4-H office or you can order directly.

Available at National 4-H:
www.4-hmall.org
- Horse-5 levels of books for members
- Helpers Guide

Available through EDIS:
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/
- 4-H Horse Member Adv. Prog: Level I, II, III, IV
- 4-H Prep & Presentation of Oral Reasons in Horse Judging
- Love a Horse Project I and II

**Connections and Events**

- Attending events and taking advantage of opportunities that will expand your project learning will help you become the best you can be. Contact your county 4-H office.

Take part in:
- Horse Shows (county, district & state levels)
- Public Speaking (county, district, and state level)
- Horse Judging
- Horse Quiz Bowl
- Florida 4-H Horsemanship School
- Florida 4-H Horseman of the Year Scholarship and Award

Attend other statewide events. Check them out at www.florida 4-h.org and http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/

**Record Keeping**

- Learning to take good records of what you do and what you spend for your project is a 4-H life skill. The following record keeping forms can help you keep a record of your activities.

- Project Report Forms can be found at http://florida4h.org
- Junior (grades 4-6)
- Intermediate (grades 7-8)
- Senior (grades 9-12)
- Financial Summary
- Member Portfolio (ages 8-13)

**Awards and Recognition**

- Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips and/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.

To learn more about current recognition opportunities visit the Florida 4-H website at http://florida4h.org or contact your county 4-H agent.

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