

# 4-H Horse & Pony Project



SNAPSHOT 4H1614



## CURRICULA & RESOURCES

### Michigan Resources

- » Michigan State University Department of Animal Science, Horse Youth Programs: [www.canr.msu.edu/horses\\_ponies/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies/)
- » Extension Horses: [www.extensionhorses.org](http://www.extensionhorses.org)
- » My Horse University: [www.myhorseuniversity.com](http://www.myhorseuniversity.com)

### National 4-H Curricula

<https://bit.ly/2kGICVp>

- » 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](http://www.juniormasterhorseman.com)
- » Arabian Horse Association's Youth Activities: [www.arabianhorses.org/youth/activities/](http://www.arabianhorses.org/youth/activities/)
- » The United States Pony Club: <https://www.ponyclub.org/>

## 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.

# 4-H Horse & Pony Project



## 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](http://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, 4-H Hippology Skills Contest, 4-H Benefit Clinic, or 4-H & FFA Horse Judging Contest. Visit [www.canr.msu.edu/horses\\_ponies/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies/) 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](http://www.msu.edu) to explore those majors.

Adapted with permission from "4-H Horse and Pony Project," by Iowa State University Extension, 2011, *Iowa 4-H Project Hot Sheet*. Retrieved from <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/>

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Thomas G. Coon, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned. The name "4-H" and the emblem consisting of a four-leaf clover with stem and the "H" on each leaflet are protected under Title 18 U.S.C. 707. (4H1614 1P-WEB-9:2019-BH) Produced by MSU Extension.