



4-H Horse Projects and Project Materials

December 14, 2012

Horse projects are offered in four interest areas:

- **Performance/Horsemanship (Level 1, Levels 2-5)**

Youth select and care for a horse or pony and keep a record of all activities with their horse at each level. Many members participate in county district or state shows, clinics, camps, trail rides and other activities.

- **Production**

Youth who take production projects breed a mare, or raise and work with young horses up to five years of age. Records are kept for each animal enrolled in the project. Animals enrolled in Production projects may be shown at local, regional or state shows.

- **Competitive Trail Riding**

Youth learn to select, and condition a horse for competitive trail riding. Members maintain records on their project horse and record trail riding experiences. Many members participate in local, regional, or state competitive trail rides.

- **Horseless**

This project is for youth who do not own horses, but want to learn more about them. There are many opportunities for horseless members such as horse judging, hippology, horse bowl, skillathons, communication contests, and much more! Some counties have opportunities for horseless members to participate in local shows and/or share horses with other 4-H members.

In addition, the following programs are available:

Horsemanship Skills Program

The Horsemanship Skills Program provides a planned progression of skill development to promote safety, education, and life skills of youth. The program is available to *all* 4-H members, regardless of their riding style or ability to own a horse. Youth are not required to use their project animals, although this is encouraged as appropriate. Youth who do not own a horse may participate by sharing or leasing a horse.

Safety Program

The safety program is designed to:

- * Promote safety of youth while working with horses
- * Promote safety awareness in youth, parents, leaders, and agents
- * Provide safety resources and activities for participants
- * Incorporate safety education within existing 4-H projects
- * Recognize youth and leaders for safety achievements

The primary components of the safety program are:

- ◆ "Safety Packets" including safety resources for each county
- ◆ Educational programs and activities for youth and adults
- ◆ Horsemanship Skills Program
- ◆ Safety awards for youth, leaders and clubs

Many publications and additional resources are available on the 4-H Horse Program website at: animalscience.psu.edu - Youth 4-H, Horses, or from your county extension office.

4-H Horse Project Books

4-H Skills For Life Animal Science Series

These books are used as project activity guides (project books) for each of the project areas.

Level 1 “Giddy Up and Go” (A0680A)

Selected Topics:

Discovering horses, appearance, conformation, breeds, behavior, safety, gaits, horse uses

Level 2 “Head Heart, and Hooves” (A0690A)

Selected Topics:

Anatomy, nutrition, feeding, dentistry, hoof care grooming, pre-purchase exams, judging

Level 3 “Stable Relationships” (A0700A)

Selected Topics:

Reproduction, health care, housing, facilities, management, transportation, ownership costs

Level 4 “Riding the Range” (A0706A)

Selected Topics:

Riding and horsemanship skills, tack, basic safety and handling skills, training, equitation

Level 5 “Jumping to New Heights” (A0707A)

Selected Topics:

Riding and horsemanship skills, showing, patterns, showmanship, fitting, ethics, sportsmanship

Horse Project Helpers/Group Activity Guide (A0680C)

Leader and project helper guide including lesson and meeting plans and ideas.

- * Each level is designed to take 2-4 years to complete.
- * Planning guide at beginning of each book outlines required and optional activities and specific skills for each level.
- * Seven activities are required per year in each level.
- * Twenty one activities should be completed before advancing to next level.
- * Three to five learning experiences should be completed per year.

Project Records and Resources:

- A0680B Performance Horsemanship Annual Record – Level 1
- A0690B Performance Horsemanship Annual Record – Level 2-5
- A0705B Horse Production Annual Record
- A0650B Horse Production Record 1: Broodmare
- A0650D Horse Production Record 2: Foal, Weanling, Yearling, 2, 3, 4 or 5 Year Old
- A0650E Horse Production Show Entry Form (Registered) *online:* animalscience.psu.edu
- ~~A0650F~~ Horse Production Show Entry Form (Futurity) Rev05/12pdf4145 *online:* animalscience.psu.edu
- ~~A0650G~~ Horse Production Show Entry Form (Grade) Rev04/12pdf4145 *online:* animalscience.psu.edu
- A0600A Competitive Trail Riding Reference Book
- A0600B Competitive Trail Riding Annual Record
- A0600G Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Show Rule Book
- S4008 Pennsylvania 4-H Pony Height Certificate
- A0701B Horseless Project Annual Record
- A0601B Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Safety Standards
- A0602B Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Safety Checklist
- A0610B Horses, Safety and You – How to Work With and Around a Horse Safely
- A0603B Pennsylvania 4-H Horsemanship Skills Resource Book (4-H Member)
- A0604B Pennsylvania 4-H Horsemanship Skills Resource Book (Volunteer/Professional)
- A0605B Level 1, 4-H Horsemanship Skills Evaluation Sheet
- A0606B Level 2, 4-H Horsemanship Skills Evaluation Sheet
- A0609B Summary 4-H Horsemanship Skills Evaluation Sheet

Project Records and Resources (continued):

- * The following two items are available on line only and are not needed for county use. Triplicate forms are available as needed for district or state use from Penn State Equine Extension Specialist or Associates.
A0607B - Level 3, 4-H Horsemanship Skills Evaluation Sheet
A0608B - Level 4, 4-H Horsemanship Skills Evaluation Sheet

Project books and other materials are available from the local office of Penn State Extension. To contact the Penn State Extension Office in your county go to:
extension.psu.edu/counties

Orders for most publications should be placed through the county extension office to:

Publications Distribution Center
Phone: 814-865-6713
Website: pubs.cas.psu.edu/

Also available from the Department of Animal Science website: animalscience.psu.edu

Equine Science Newsletter
Pennsylvania Horse Power – Pennsylvania Equine Economic Impact Study
Pennsylvania Therapeutic Horsemanship Directory

Each county office of Penn State Extension has access to or a copy of:

Horse Industry Handbook
Youth Leaders Manual
Safety Packets - I and II
Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Show Management Guidelines
Safety and Emergency Procedures (for 4-H horse events)
Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Safety Program – overview, information, awards
Pennsylvania 4-H Horsemanship Skills – overview, information and PowerPoint
Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Show Rule Book
Procedures for Rule and Program Changes – PA 4-H Horse Program
Responsibilities of 4-H Horse District Representatives
4-H Horse Show Judges
4-H Horse Show Judges Evaluations
Guidelines for Pennsylvania 4-H Obstacle Trail
Jumps and Courses for 4-H Over Fences Classes
Guidelines for Bits in Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Shows
PA 4-H Horse Production Project Guidelines
Skills Testing for Youth Under 12 Years of Age Showing Production Animals
Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program Protective Headgear Policy—Questions and Answers
Program Accessibility Guidelines for Persons with Disabilities in 4-H Horse Events
Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Measurers and Measurer Trainers
Measuring Stick Suppliers
2013 4-Horse Events
2013 4-H Horse Program Deadlines
Promotional/marketing and fund raising publications

extension.psu.edu

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This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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