



HORSE AND PONY PROJECT AREA



The horse and pony project area is exciting because you can participate whether you own a horse or not! Discover all the aspects of raising and riding horses.

Ideas for Project Area Learning

- 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.
- Learn about basic horse care.
- Identify the parts of a horse.
- Learn breeds of horses.
- Learn the gaits of a horse.
- Understand horse reproduction parts.
- Learn about genetics and heredity of horses.
- Investigate horse diseases.
- Learn how to control parasites.
- Discover the causes of colic.
- Practice vaccinations.
- Learn the function of different horse tack.
- Learn the basics of trail riding.
- Check vital signs of your horse.
- Learn how to mount and dismount safely.
- Explain etiquette to ride safely as a group.
- Communicate with your horse.
- Practice horsemanship maneuvers.
- Improve your riding style.
- Research and purchase show clothing.
- Improve your showmanship pattern.
- Evaluate ethics in competitive situations.
- Learn about the knots used in horse care.
- Learn about horse grooming.
- Learn about the different saddles, bridles and tack.

APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Communication

- Present about the parts of a horse.
- Send a letter to the editor describing your opinion on a horse topic.
- Present a riding safety session at your county for each course workouts before the county fair.

Civic Engagement

- Explore therapeutic riding and horse rescue assistance opportunities.
- Assist with the 4-H horse show at your county fair.
- Participate in the local saddle club charitable benefit.
- Ask friends to always wear a helmet when riding horses.

Leadership

- Lead a trail ride for your fellow 4-H horse project members.
- Work with a horseless horse member to care for a horse.
- Conduct a horse grooming clinic.
- Organize a tack swap for your club members.

Entrepreneurship

- Create a business plan for starting horse and pony riding classes.
- Start a trail riding class for all ages.
- Create and sell accessories for horse show exhibitors.



Exhibit resources, related events, and record keeping forms are available on our website.

www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/horse

Goal Setting and Record Keeping

Goal setting is an ongoing process that guides your project area learning. Having goals is like having a road map to show you how to get you to where you want to go. Record keeping is also an ongoing process and another important life skill. In 4-H, you are encouraged to select from a variety of record keeping formats to meet your own personal needs and your preferred learning style. Keeping records of your learning experiences helps you determine how well you met your goals. Goal setting and record keeping improve your skills in organization, communication, planning, and evaluating.

Iowa 4-H Event Opportunities

- Participate in **county and state fair** exhibit classes.
- Check with your local county 4-H youth development staff to see if there are special events or **workshops in your county** that you want to attend to learn more about your project areas.
- Iowa 4-H members in grades 9–12 can apply for **State Project Area Awards** at State Recognition Day. Applications are open December through January.
- Meet young people from around the state who have completed grades 8–12, and share your interests at the **Iowa 4-H Youth Conference** held at Iowa State University in late June.
- Apply for an in-depth hands-on learning experience on the Iowa State University campus during the three-day **Animal Science Roundup** late June. Youth in grades 8–12 are welcome to apply.
- Participate in **Equine Extravaganza**, a three-day event for horse project members that takes place annually in March.

Share Your Learning With an Exhibit

- Make horse coloring and marking patterns.
- Make a poster identifying all the different parts of a horse.
- Do a presentation about how to be safe around horses.
- Draw up a health chart for your horse.
- Report on the history of horses.
- Create a game where you match up the parts of a horse with their names.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

- **Equine boarding stable managers** feed and clean horses, keep them exercised and healthy, and have equipment ready to go.
- **Veterinarians** care for the health of animals and work to diagnose, treat, and research medical conditions and diseases.
- **Agriculture teachers** teach students about livestock production, lead activities, and get students involved in the community.
- **Jockeys** work to keep up the physical health of their horse and themselves through intense training.

EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

- Students in **animal science** focus on the management of livestock species, as well as meat science, reproduction, and nutrition.
- If you enjoy different sciences like microbiology, chemistry, and genetics, studying **biology** may interest you.
- Learn **veterinary technology** if you're interested in animal health, anatomy, and disease transmission.
- Students in **genetics** learn more about why we have certain physical traits, how to conduct research, and how DNA works.

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