



Animal Science 4-H Horse

North Dakota 4-H Project Sheet

The 4-H horse project is an exciting 4-H project area because you can participate whether you own a horse or not. Discover all the aspects of raising and riding horses.

- Appreciate riding as recreation.
- Learn horsemanship skills.
- Develop an understanding of breeding, training and raising horses as a business.
- Acquire skills in horse management by owning and being responsible for an animal.
- Acquire safety skills to prevent injury to people and animals.



Pass it on!
Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

Communication

- Present a lesson about the parts of a horse.
- Send a letter to the editor of a local newspaper describing your opinion on the ethics of a horse situation.
- Present a riding safety session at the 4-H horse workouts prior to your county show.

Citizenship

- Assist with the 4-H horse show at the county fair.
- Participate in the local saddle club charitable benefit.
- Set an example by always wearing a helmet and asking friends to always wear a helmet when riding horses.

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic/Level 1	Learning More Intermediate/Level 2	Expanding Horizons Advanced/Level 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about basic horse care. • Identify the parts of a horse. • Learn breeds of horses. • Learn the gaits of the horse. • Understand horse reproduction parts. • Learn about genetics and heredity of horses. • Investigate horse diseases. • Learn how to control parasites. • Discover causes of colic. • Practice vaccinations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn the basics of trail riding. • Check horse vital signs. • Learn how to mount and dismount safely. • Learn etiquette to ride safely as a group. • Communicate with your horse. • Practice horsemanship maneuvers. • Improve your riding style. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and purchase show clothing. • Improve a show horse's appearance. • Improve your showmanship pattern. • Learn riding patterns. • Understand the quarter system. • Evaluate ethics in competitive situations.

Leadership

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

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NDSU is an equal opportunity institution

Learn more at www.ndsu.edu/4h/ or contact your county NDSU Extension office.

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Here are other opportunities to explore the horse project:

- 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 TV to learn about different types 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.
- Attend a horse camp at North Dakota 4-H Camp and participate in the community service project, bringing ideas backs to your community.
- Is it fair time? Consider riding in your county fair horse show or the North Dakota State Fair.
- Contact your county NDSU Extension office for other local workshops, activities and events.
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with NDSU to explore those majors (www.ndsu.edu).
- Present a speech or demonstration on your horse project.



Exhibit Ideas

- Participate in the 4-H horse show.
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you've learned in a related topic:
 - ⇒ Horse coloring/marking patterns
 - ⇒ Safety around horses
 - ⇒ History of horses
 - ⇒ Horse body language
 - ⇒ Parts-of-a-horse matching game
 - ⇒ Horse-breed comparison chart
 - ⇒ Horse-stable designs
 - ⇒ Knots used with horses
 - ⇒ Tagging a horse
 - ⇒ How to groom a horse
 - ⇒ Supplies price chart
 - ⇒ Horse skeleton diagram
 - ⇒ Display of horse diseases
 - ⇒ Growth chart for your horse
 - ⇒ Dental problems of horses
 - ⇒ How to shoe a horse
 - ⇒ Horse reproductive system
 - ⇒ Pasture management practices
 - ⇒ Horse life cycle poster
 - ⇒ Identify saddle, bridle and tack
 - ⇒ Create a horse first-aid kit
 - ⇒ Pre-show fitting techniques
 - ⇒ How-to display for judging horsemanship
 - ⇒ Present a horse using the "Quarter System"
 - ⇒ Design your own showmanship pattern
 - ⇒ Create a scrapbook or collage of photos from your horse project
 - ⇒ Careers in the horse industry

4-H Resources

- [National 4-H Curriculum](#)
- [Giddy Up and Go \(GBH151\)](#)
- [Head, Heart and Hooves \(GBH152\)](#)
- [Stable Relationships \(GBH153\)](#)
- [Riding the Range \(GBH154\)](#)
- [Jumping to New Heights \(GBH155\)](#)
- [Horse Helper's Guide \(GBH254\)](#)
- [Green Horse \(GBH156\)](#)
- [ND Horseshow Rules and Judging Guide \(GBH092\)](#)

Publications available at your local Extension Office:

- 4-H Working Horse Levels 1-4 (GBH157)
- Horse Judging Guide (GBH646)

Other Resources

- Demonstration Guides
 - [Yearling to Maturity](#)
 - [Ranch Horse](#)
- [4-H Horse Camps](#)
- [4-H Horse Video/DVDs](#) (available for checkout)
- [4-H Horse Learning Laboratory Kit](#) (available for checkout)
- [NDSU Equine Studies](#)
- [Extension Equine Information](#)
- [Horse Breed Association List](#)

Recordkeeping

- [Horse Record \(GBH095\)](#)
- [Planning for My Project Adventure 8-10 \(PA093\)](#)
- [ND 4-H Project Plan \(PA095\)](#)
- [ND 4-H Plan of Action 11-19 \(PA096\)](#)
- [ND 4-H Participation for 11-19 \(PA098\)](#)

Contests

- [Horse Events](#)

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