



When youth have a passion for animals, the 4-H Horse Project provides a great opportunity to explore their interest. From judging contests and visual presentations to animal production and competitive showing, 4-H'ers can participate in aspects of the project with or without animal ownership.

The project teaches animal husbandry including selecting, feeding, managing, and marketing of horses. Developing teamwork, responsibility, and decision-making alongside both animals and people is unique to the livestock program experience. Hobbies or careers in animal agriculture enable utilization of these lifelong skills and project mastery.

Starting Out Beginner

Starting a livestock project is exciting and challenging! There is so much to learn! Join a 4-H livestock club to meet knowledgeable, experienced mentors and friends.

Volunteer at local shows. Develop visual presentations and demonstrations to learn about topics like animal health and handling, then share them with your club and in competitions.

Join your local horse judging team to learn more about conformation and anatomy, competitive disciplines, breed characteristics, selection, and more. Start your record book.

Learning More Intermediate

Put your knowledge into practice by competing in contests and purchasing an animal.

Join your local Horse Bowl team.

Buy a horse and present it at your county and state shows.

Explore increasingly complex topics for public speaking such as genetics, reproduction, and nutrition.

Continue to document project activities and goals in your record book.

Exploring Depth Advanced

Advance your showmanship to the next level competing in regional and national shows.

Join a Hippology Team to utilize your horse judging, demonstration, public speaking, and general knowledge in competition.

Demonstrate your appreciation for horses and challenge yourself to learn a new skill through the Horse Art and Photography Contests.

Share your project experience with beginners. Submit your project record book to the state competition.

4-H Thrive

Positive Youth Development

Developing Competence

Adults create environments where youth can develop competence in their chosen project area.

Building Confidence

Youth build confidence as they learn to think for themselves, build mastery, and are recognized for their efforts.

Nurturing Caring

Adults nurture a caring environment where mutual trust between youth and adults is established. Caring relationships with adults are key to resilient youth.

Finding Connection

Youth build solid connections which are critical to their well-being.

Forming Character

Create a community where youth play an active role in developing their character.

Determining Contribution

Youth actively contribute to their clubs and communities.

***Mississippi State University is
an equal opportunity
institution.***

Expand your experiences!



Resources

1. EQUESTrian Card Decks 1-7
2. *Basic Horse Safety*. MSU Extension Publication P0852
3. *Mississippi 4-H Horse Shows: Classes, Rules, and Regulations*. MSU Extension Publication P0821
4. *Keeping Your Livestock Show Animals Healthy*. MSU Extension Publication P2806
5. *Responsible Horse Ownership*. MSU Extension Publication P2950
6. *Safety Awareness in Mississippi 4-H Horse Programs*. MSU Extension Publication P3304
7. *Showmanship and Grooming*. MSU Extension Publication P1136
8. *Top 10 Values and Skills Gained Through Participation on a Judging Team*. MSU Extension Publication P3003
9. *Working Safely Around Horses*. MSU Extension Publication P3004
10. *Working the Horse Show: Scribing for the Judge*. MSU Extension Publication P3714
11. *Your 4-H Horse: Care, Management, and Horsemanship*. MSU Extension Publication P450

Connections & Events

For Juniors
Project Achievement
Day Contests

For Seniors
Club Congress Contests
Premier Exhibitor
Contest
National Dairy Judging
National 4-H Dairy
Conference

For Juniors & Seniors
State Dairy Judging
Dairy Cattle Princess &
Sweetheart Contests

Contact your local
Extension office to
learn more.

Curriculum

Level 1 Book: Giddy Up & Go. National 4-H Curriculum.

Level 2 Book: Head, Heart, and Hooves. National 4-H Curriculum.

Level 3 Book: Stable Relationships. National 4-H Curriculum.

Level 4 Book: Riding the Range. National 4-H Curriculum.

Level 5 Book: Jumping to New Heights. National 4-H Curriculum.

Horse Project Helper's Guide. National 4-H Curriculum.

4-H Record Book

4-H members practice skills in data collection, organization, and analysis as they document their project activities and goals in their record books. The books provide practical information as well as highlight progress made toward goals.

Juniors and Seniors can enter the state record book competition.

Seniors are eligible to win a trip to National 4-H Congress for Dairy Cattle Project record books.



Activity Suggestions

Service and Leadership projects related to the Horse Project:

- Organize or participate in a charitable trail ride or benefit show.
- Lead a show horse grooming clinic for your club.
- Volunteer at a nearby equine therapy program.
- Plan a trail cleanup day for a public, designated horse trail.
- Help present a horse safety training demonstration for younger 4-H members.

Competitive Activities (Indicate Jr or Sr or Both):

Judging:

- State Horse Judging, Jr. & Sr.
- National Horse Judging, Sr.

Visual Presentation:

- Horse Individual and Team Demonstrations, Jr. & Sr.
- Horse Public Speaking, Jr. & Sr.
- Horse Visual Presentation at Project Achievement Day, Jr.

Miscellaneous:

- Horse Shows: Showmanship, Western and English Disciplines, Miniatures, Jr. & Sr.
- Hippology, Jr. & Sr.
- Horse Bowl, Jr. & Sr.

Tours and Field Trip Ideas:

- Tour a Horse Ranch
- Field Trip to a Horse Auction
- Field Trip to a Horse Show
- Tour a Veterinarian Clinic or School
- Field Trip to Horse Stables

Special Note: Rules in the current year's Mississippi 4-H Horse Championship Rules and Regulations will be followed for Horse Judging, Horse Bowl, Horse Public Speaking, Horse Individual Demonstration, Horse Team Demonstration, Hippology, Horse Art, Horse Photography, and Horse T-Shirt Design Contests. To access this rule book, go to the Mississippi 4-H Livestock website.

