

KALAMAZOO COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROJECT

Each year 4-H Members may choose to do either:

1. A notebook/ poster or tri-fold – including **ALL** the requirements **for each appropriate year**. (may be organized by topic or by years if you can denote newly added material)
2. A PowerPoint/ Prezi/web-site presentation – including all of the requirements **for the specific year** with a paper copy or over view to keep on display with the paperwork.
3. A Video Documentary – including all of the requirements **for the specific year** with a paper copy or overview to keep on display with the paperwork.
4. Create your own project – A member may choose to come up with their own idea for a project **with leader permission. (minimum 4th year participant)**.
5. Group project – (limited to up to 4 members per group) Members have the option to do a group or partner project in place of the individual project. The topic for the project may come from any of the years between and including the years the oldest member has completed. (I.e. If the oldest member is in their 4th year, the project can cover any of the topics from years 1-4). It can be presented in any of the above formats and must contain the appropriate paperwork. Group projects must have visual representation and the required paperwork.

***The projects will be judged in their respective categories for each year and awarded a ribbon and a premium.** (Members may be asked questions pertaining to past year's requirements if choosing to do a web based or video project for clarification of growth.)

**** Each project must include: a member record sheet; Table of Contents; a personal story (including your accomplishments from this year and goals for next year); and the community service, goals and accomplishment form. If choosing to present using something other than a notebook these must still be included in a presentation folder or 3 ring binder and given to the judge. Papers may not be loose in a folder.**

Include plenty of pictures with your information - Include plenty of pictures of YOU and YOUR HORSE!

- Make it personal! Mention stories or personal experiences that you have had with horses.
- Know your information to be able to answer questions up to and including your year's goals.
- Be sure this represents the members work

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/uploads/234/42274/light_horse/community_Service_form_2013.pdf

Evaluation form can be found under light horse project guidelines

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlyGxXr5CUt3P9ZPH-8ALUSexiGAFIv0j>

[Www.extensionhorses.org](http://www.extensionhorses.org)

[Www.extension.org/horses](http://www.extension.org/horses)

MSU Extension news articles are a great resource! Here's one on trailering: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/horse_trailer_safety

Here's a direct link to more: https://www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies/

Updated August 3, 2022

Cloverbuds

Members 7 and under may choose to do a poster of their choice that shows basic horse knowledge, safety, and care.

Year One:

General Care of the Horse:

- Water (How much do they drink? Where can they drink from?)
- Food (basic choices/needs)
- Grooming tools (show/label)

Safety:

- Ground Safety (walking around or with your horse)
- Safely mounting and dismounting your horse
- Equipment (helmets/boots with heels/etc.)

Parts of the Horse:

- Label the MAIN parts of the horse (age appropriate)

Health Care:

- Worming (how often and types of wormers)

Tack Care:

- Cleaning tack

Gaits of the Horse:

- Walk
- Trot/Jog
- Canter/Lope

Diseases/Illness:

- Equine First Aid Kit basics

Food and Nutrition:

- Feeding Schedule: Write out your feeding schedule for your horse with the times, feed and amounts.

Horse Breeds and Basics:

- Give Examples of the following terms: mare, stallion, gelding, foal, colt, filly
- List 4 of the most common horse coat colors and show an example.

Year Two

General Care of the Horse:

- Fly Control
- Exercise
- Grooming

Safety:

- Ground Safety and tying (What to do vs what NOT to do)

Parts of the Horse:

- Add to and Label 5 additional parts of the horse (age appropriate)
- Parts of the Hoof labeled

Health Care:

- Worming- Parasites-list and show an example of 3
- Hoof Care

Tack Care:

- Tack Storage
- Parts of the Western Saddle and bridle

Gaits of the Horse:

- Gallop
- Hand Gallop
- Extended Trot

Diseases/Illness:

- Colic basics-symptoms, prevention, treatment

Food and Nutrition:

- Detail what work your horse does per day and why you chose your feeding schedule.
- Horse tank and bucket care.

Horse Breeds and Basics:

- Identify the common face and leg markings.
- Include any unusual colors or markings you may find.

Year Three

General Care of the Horse:

- Stabling-indoor/outdoor, types and construction materials

Safety:

- Riding (Ring etiquette/trail/safe areas)

Parts of the Horse:

- Add to and Label 5 additional parts of the horse (age appropriate)
- Basic Parts of the Digestive System labeled

Health Care:

- Vaccines- types given

Tack Care:

- Parts of the English Saddle and bridle

Diseases/Illness:

- Choose 1 equine disease-give detail about what it is, symptoms, treatment, prevention

Gaits of the Horse:

- Leads-explain what a lead is, how the horse is moving and how to cue a horse to take a lead.

Food and Nutrition:

- List the types of hay and how to look for the quality.

Horse Breeds and Basics:

- Identify three breeds of light horses and identify their: country of origin; average height; characteristics; colors and uses today.

Year Four

General Care of the Horse:

- Pasture Management: Explain what good pasture management is, including fencing & types, safety hazards, rotation and number of horses per pasture.

Safety:

- Vices- explain and possible solutions: barn sour, cribbing, pawing

Parts of the Horse:

- Basic Parts of the eye with an explanation of horse vision and blind spots.

Health Care:

- Dental Care

Gaits of the Horse:

- The gaited horse and movements

Tack Care:

- Explain their use and label 4 other pieces of equipment such as: tie downs, hackamores, shipping boots, blankets, crops, etc.

Diseases/Illness:

- Choose 1 equine disease-give detail about what it is, symptoms, treatment, prevention

Food and Nutrition:

- Identify the different types of grain and detail why they would be fed.
- Identify at least 2 supplements and minerals given to horses.

Horse Breeds and Basics:

- Identify the Colored horse breeds and describe what makes them unique and what qualifies them to be a colored breed.

Year Five

General Care of the Horse:

- Winter Horse Care: exercise, waste management, feed, water, weather protection

Safety:

- Training: Example or a Problem solving example.

Parts of the Horse:

- Skeletal system chart with labels

Health Care:

- Normal Vital signs: respiration, temperature, heart rate, color of gums/eyes/tongue

Tack Care:

- Bit basics- choose 2 types of bits to label and explain their uses and safety.

Gaits of the Horse:

- Pick 2 riding styles or sports and give details about them including gaits needed to perform.

Diseases/Illness:

- Choose 1 equine disease-give detail about what it is, symptoms, treatment, prevention

Food and Nutrition:

- How much does it cost to keep a horse for a month? Make a list of all of the expenses you have each month for your horse include: hoof care, feed, board, equipment, vet bills, worming, etc.

Horse Breeds and Basics:

- Identify 1 breed of Heavy horse (work horse) and identify: country of origin, average height, characteristics, colors and uses today.
- Identify the common horse colors WITH their appropriately identified genes (i.e. Chestnut is ee).

Year Six

General Care of the Horse:

- Summer Horse Care: exercise, waste management, feed, water, hot/dry weather protection

Safety:

- Training: Provide another Example of training or a Behavior problem solving example.

Parts of the Horse:

- Muscular system chart with labels

Health Care:

- Lameness versus Sound- explain and give examples

Tack Care:

- Bit basics- choose 2 additional types of bits to label and explain their uses and safety.
- Show grooming- supplies and suggestions

Gaits of the Horse:

- Judging: Pick a class or discipline and detail what a judge looks for when placing horses. OR contact a judge of your chosen discipline and conduct an interview to find out the specific things they like and look for when judging a class.

Diseases/Illness:

- Choose 1 equine illness prevention detail about what it is, symptoms, treatment, prevention. List common vaccines and what they prevent, including the times/stages vaccines are given.

Food and Nutrition:

- Equine Body Scoring-Explain and show examples

Horse Breeds and Basics:

- Conformation: Show a horse with ideal Breed conformation and then pick 2 other horses and detail their conformation faults.

Year Seven

General Care of the Horse:

- Describe the basic needs/care of the horse in training (old and young)

Safety:

- Breaking and training a young horse: explain the process and training a horse from colt to under saddle.

Parts of the Horse:

- Explain when a horse is at an age bearing stage or developed enough to begin saddle training.

Health Care:

- The Age of a Horse- explain how as a horse ages his teeth change.

Tack Care:

- Pick 2 different pieces of training equipment and identify what they are used for, how to use them properly and any safety precautions.

Gaits of the Horse:

- Judging: Pick a class or discipline related to showing a young horse and detail what a judge looks for when placing horses, OR contact a judge of your chosen discipline and conduct an interview to find out the specific things they like and look for when judging a class.

Diseases/illness:

- List at least 3 parasites, lice or mites. Include the symptoms, treatment and prevention

Food and Nutrition:

- List at least 3 plants that are toxic to horses and how to treat if eaten

Horse Breeds and Basics:

- Conformation: Show a horse with ideal Breed conformation and then pick 2 other horses and detail their conformation faults.

Year Eight

General Care of the Horse:

- Methods of Breeding-detail the procedures for each: A.I., Live Cover, Pasture Breeding
- Stall preparation for foaling

Safety:

- Long distance trailering
- Protective parent, desensitizing the foal- briefly explain or give an example

Parts of the Horse:

- Reproductive System- mare and stallion labeled
- Estrus cycle of the mare

Health Care:

- Gestation period and stages: examples and labels
- Mare and foal care-during pregnancy, during foaling, after foaling including feed, worming, and vaccinations

Tack Care:

- Basic equipment for a growing foal (halter/blanket etc.)
- Foaling Kit

Disease/illness:

- List at least 3 parasites, lice, mites and/or skin problems. Include the symptoms, treatment, and prevention (different from previous years)

Food and Nutrition:

- List basic nutritional needs of the Stallion, Pregnant mare, new foal

Horse Breeds and Basics:

- Conformation: Choosing a Stallion-what you look for, contracts etc.

Year Nine

1. Horse Professions:

- Pick 3 horse professions and give details. Where do get training for this field?

2. Horses in Human Health Care:

- List and describe 2 ways that horses are used in Human Health Care today.

3. Interview a Professional:

- Pick a desired profession and interview a professional that works in that area.

4. Choose an independent equine topic not previously listed to research and give information about.

Year Ten

1. Giving back:

- Become an approved MSUE 4-H youth leader in your 4-H group. This includes the [application](#) and interview with MSU Extension staff. Help the younger children and assist in group meetings, help with notebooks, and assist with ride meetings. Take an active part in teaching the younger 4-Her's about horses and what it means to be in 4-H.

- Keep a blog or diary on the activities you participate in along with any "feel good" moments you have while working with the younger kids.

- Write down any memories and thoughts you have about your time in 4-h, good or bad and any suggestions for improvements to the program.

2. Choose an independent equine topic not previously listed to research and give information about.