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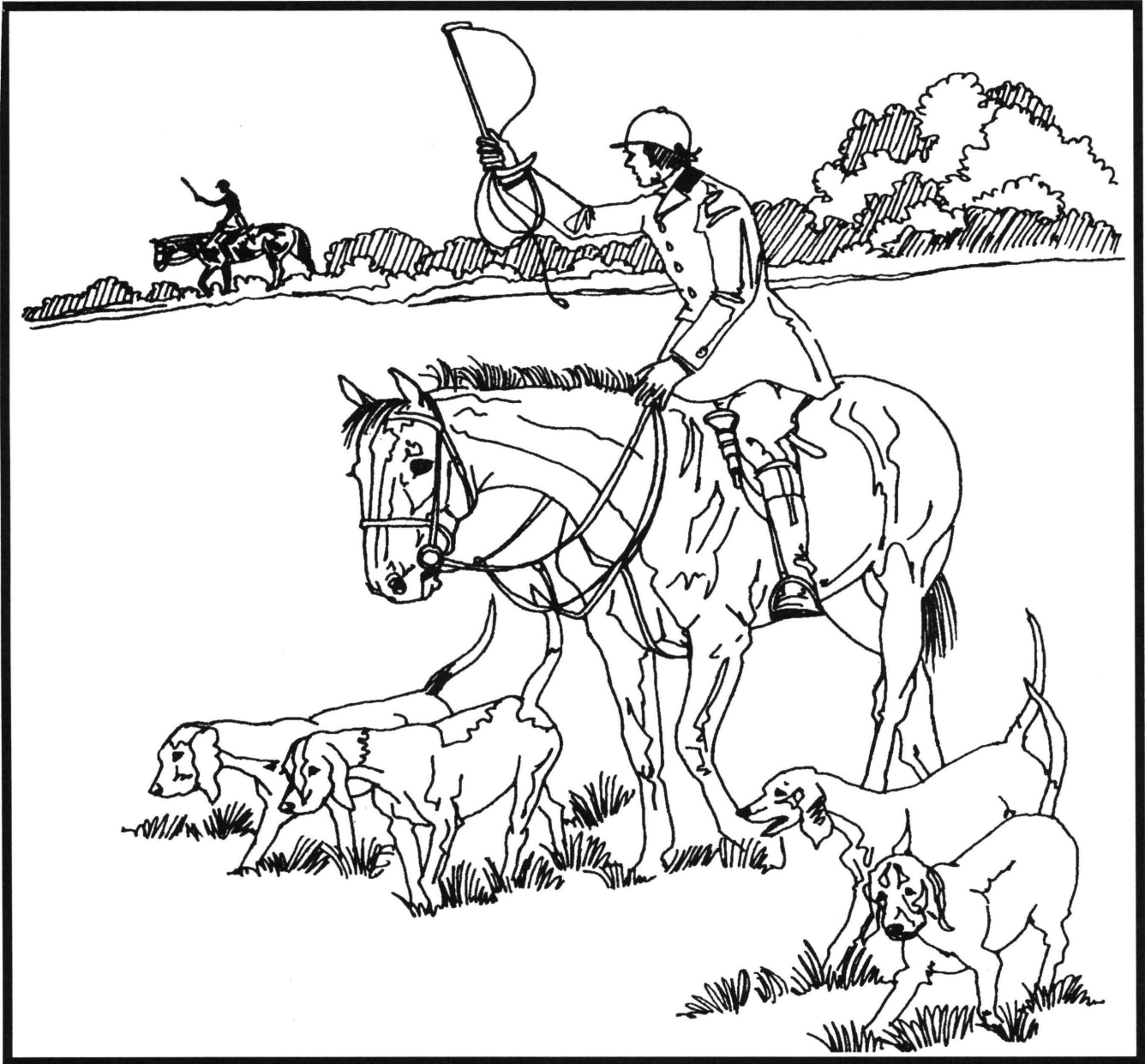


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# 4-H Horse Program Leader's Guide

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VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

## Virginia Cooperative Extension

*Knowledge for the Commonwealth*



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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# Leader's Guide\*

## Virginia 4-H Horse Program

Revised by  
Larry A. Lawrence  
Retired Extension Animal Scientist, Horses, Virginia Tech

### Objectives of the 4-H Horse Program

The 4-H Horse Project aims to help 4-H members to:

1. Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and other desirable traits of character.
2. Experience the pride of owning a horse or pony and being responsible for its management.
3. Develop an appreciation of horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
4. Learn skills in horsemanship and an understanding of the business of breeding, raising, and training horses.
5. Increase knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injury to themselves, others, and their mount.
6. Promote greater love for animals and a humane attitude toward them.
7. Be better prepared for citizenship responsibilities through working in groups and supporting community horse projects and activities.

### Your Job as a Leader

#### The Challenge

Your responsibility as a local leader is both a challenge and an opportunity. Yours is a key position in the 4-H club program. If you enjoy working with young people and like horses, you will find the time spent working with the 4-H horse program most rewarding. You'll find great satisfaction in watching boys and girls develop new knowledge and skills under your guidance. The horse project gives them special learning opportunities in animal care, outdoor activities, safety, and participation in group activities. Youth interact directly with members of the agricultural industry including trainers, owners, producers, etc.

Through your efforts, club members will learn many things that will better prepare them to assume places of leadership in their community. Your own activities will be varied as you:

- help members plan their own program
- attend their club meetings
- supervise their training
- visit their homes to see how they are progressing
- advise them on the care of their animals
- accompany them on trail rides and to events outside the county

You are the club member's friend who is close by when the boy or girl wants advice or help.

A successful leader is the person who has the confidence of the group, keeps ahead of them, yet seems always with them, understands their viewpoint; is tolerant, patient, and sympathetic in working with them. He/she recognizes work well done in such a way that young people will be encouraged to do even better; makes friendly suggestions instead of displaying authority; and provides situations that will afford them larger responsibilities as they become more experienced.

Boys and girls are prone to look upon such a person as their ideal. This places a great responsibility on the leader for setting the right personal examples. Here is your opportunity to inspire club members to emulate attitudes and ideas that make for upstanding manhood and womanhood.

You don't have to do the job without help. There are others in your community who will be glad to assist. In addition, older club members can serve as assistants and junior leaders. They can do many routine jobs.

#### The Youth You Lead

The broad objective of the 4-H horse program is to help boys and girls develop leadership, character, and effective citizenship. Each boy and girl is an individual with his own background, personality, talents, experience, and aspirations. Why do they behave as they do? Why is one so different in behavior from another? An understanding of these differences can come from working with each individual.

As a leader, you will find that getting to really know each boy or girl will help you guide them as they gain confidence in working with a group. It will help you in adjusting 4-H activities to fit their needs and in increasing the pleasure and satisfaction they will derive from their club experience.

*\*This publication should be used as a guide and not necessarily as a specific rule book.*

## 4-H Horse Pledge

The horse program can help members achieve the aims of their 4-H club pledge:

I pledge:

**“My Head to clearer thinking.”**—Working with animals provides mental relaxation from schoolroom studies and at the same time stimulates quick thinking and alertness.

**“My Heart to greater loyalty.”**—The close bond of comradeship which develops between a horse and its master and between young people planning and working together in a common interest is conducive to a deepening sense of loyalty and consideration for others.

**“My Hands to larger service.”**—Skillful hands are a must for a good horseman/woman. It is the touch of the hands on the reins which telegraphs the rider’s wish to his/her mount.

**“My Health to better living.”**—Out-of-doors activities affect every nerve, muscle, and organ of the body in a healthful way.

**“For my club, my community, my country, and my world.”**—The associations and varied activities in 4-H club work provide many opportunities for young people to prepare themselves for active participation in the social and economic life of their community.

## The Extension Workers Part

In nearly every county or city there are one or more unit Extension agents. The unit Extension staff, under the general direction of the state and district Extension offices, supervises the county 4-H program. They help interested groups of boys and girls organize 4-H clubs and help leaders guide these clubs. They help arrange achievement days, camps, shows, and other county 4-H club events. Extension agents also cooperate with local 4-H horse projects by:

Explaining 4-H club work to people in the community.

Meeting with groups interested in organizing 4-H clubs.

Providing information and material on the 4-H club program and the horse project.

Visiting 4-H clubs occasionally.

Helping clubs plan yearly programs.

Assisting 4-H leaders, junior leaders, and officers in organizational and subject matter work.

Assisting committees and leaders in planning the county 4-H club program and directing events with the leaders and members.

Keeping club members informed about the State 4-H club program.

You can make effective use of county extension agents without demanding an undue portion of their time, if you:

Learn to know the Extension agents and the nature of their work. You can then use their talents and services to better advantage.

Discuss occasionally with them how they can best help you. Keep a list of items to discuss with them when you see them.

Ask them to help with the planning of a program and events before the final plans are made.

Keep the agents informed about the activities of your club. Have club reporters send the agents reports and news clippings. Have the club secretary send the agents a copy of the yearly program of work. Use the telephone when necessary. The agents are in a better position to help you when they know what you are doing.

Keep in mind that the agent doesn’t always have to be a participant in a meeting or event to make a real contribution. As an observer, the agent can make suggestions for improvement of the program.

Attend 4-H council meetings and county Extension meetings.

## General Information about Projects

A project is defined as a task or problem calling for constructive thought and action. A 4-H project or project unit can be defined as a series of planned tasks designed to encourage and aid members in learning and achieving.

4-H project work gives youth many opportunities to learn skills, gain knowledge, and develop wholesome attitudes. Projects are designed to meet the needs and interests of different age levels. When a person joins 4-H he/she is expected to conduct at least one 4-H project.

Participation in activities which are provided by 4-H is important to the personal growth of youth. Activities help maximize the educational impact of 4-H on the lives of young people. Some of the activities in which 4-H’ers can participate are citizenship, public speaking, recreation, Share-the-Fun, community service, exhibits, tours, judging, camping, demonstrations, illustrated talks, and achievement days. Activities can be conducted by individuals or groups.

## Types of 4-H Membership

Several types of 4-H membership are available in Virginia. They serve to provide the organizational flexibility essential to extending broad educational 4-H programs to a maximum number of youth.

1. **4-H Neighborhood** (for ages 9 - 19): Clubs that are led by volunteer leaders and meet out of school in members' and/or leaders' homes, or a community facility (center, church, fire station, etc.). Club meetings are usually held monthly for all members with assistance provided by one or more organizational leaders. Members participate in a variety of projects and usually work in project groups which meet at times other than the neighborhood club meeting. Each project group should have an adult or teen project leader. The neighborhood 4-H clubs provide the greatest opportunity for 4-H learning experiences over an extended period of time.

Club officers, made up of youth members, are elected each year and serve in the various leadership positions at each meeting. The officers conduct the meeting using parliamentary procedure.

*NOTE:* The DIFFERENCE between community and neighborhood is that within a community, there can be several neighborhoods. A county or city unit is not a neighborhood, as within these units, several communities exist. Likewise, each community may have two or more neighborhoods.

2. **Project Club 4-H** (for ages 9 - 19): Clubs that include youth enrolled in the same project or subject matter area, such as horse, photography, forestry, dog, garden, clothing, etc. Meetings focus on teaching subject matter related to the club's project emphasis. Clubs are led by volunteer leaders and meet out of school in members' and/or leaders' homes, or a community facility (center, church, fire station, etc.). Club meetings are held at least once a month by one or more organizational leaders. Members may participate in additional projects under the guidance of a parent or volunteer.

Club officers, made up of youth members, are elected each year and serve in the various leadership positions at each meeting. The officers conduct the meeting using parliamentary procedure.

3. **Special Interest 4-H** (for ages 9 - 19): Groups are usually short-term and consist of members organized to work on one project or subject matter area to be completed in six or more learning activities. Such groups may evolve into project clubs that meet each month for a year. The purposes of Special Interest 4-H groups are to teach youth subject matter in a short time frame, expose new youth to 4-H, and to involve these youth in 4-H for further programming opportunities. These groups are led by volunteer leaders. These groups are not part of a neighborhood 4-H club or school program.

Since this type of 4-H group is short-term, the club does not usually have officers.

4. **Cloverbud 4-H** (for ages 5 - 8): Groups are small and consist of members in non-competitive programming. Cloverbud 4-H groups are led by volunteer leaders, meet out of school in members' and/or leaders' homes, or a community facility, and involve parents and/or guardian support. Each child progresses and develops at his/her own speed, and is involved in hands-on, learn-by-doing curriculum.

There are no club officers for this age group.

5. **After School 4-H** (for ages 9 - 19): Groups may be one or more of the types of clubs stated; however, they meet at a school facility during non-school times. They are led by volunteer leaders with members participating in one or more project or subject matter area(s).

May or may not have club officers, depending on the type of club conducted (refer to #1 - #3 above).

6. **School 4-H** (for ages 9 - 19): Clubs meet in school on school time, usually with 7 - 9 monthly meetings during the year. Teachers and/or other adults in the neighborhood serve as leaders. Individual project work outside of school is strongly encouraged.

Club officers, made up of youth members, are usually elected each year and serve in the various leadership positions at each meeting. The officers conduct the meeting using parliamentary procedure.

7. **School Enrichment 4-H** (for ages 9 - 19): Groups have learning experiences not involving organized club activities. They are coordinated with school personnel and utilize 4-H learning materials as part of the school curriculum. The group meets on school time or at a school-sponsored activity, such as a 4-H center's outdoor and environmental education program, that provides school enrichment opportunities. The focus is experiential learning that complements and supplements the public school Standards of Learning (SOLs). Groups are led by teachers and/or other adults.

Usually do not have club officers.

8. **Instructional TV 4-H** (for ages 9 - 19): Youth participating in 4-H learning experiences via broadcast television (i.e. Blue Sky Below My Feet, etc.), and usually conducted in cooperation with schools. Teachers and/or other adults in the neighborhood serve as leaders.

Usually do not have club officers.

9. **Lone Member/Individual Study 4-H** (for ages 9 - 19): Individuals participating in 4-H under the guidance of a parent or other adult, but without group affiliation. Examples include home schoolers; a youth who lives away from other youth; a youth who does not have an opportunity to join 4-H otherwise. The You-Two program (developed by the Pennsylvania 4-H Department) is an excellent guide to working with lone members.

Since this is not a group, there are no club officers.

## Types of Camps

Each 4-H camp is an independent educational event and not restricted to or contingent upon any prerequisites, such as completing a project, being a club officer, etc. Thus, camping is a delivery mode to reach and teach youth.

1. **Junior 4-H Camp** (for ages 9 - 13): Youth participating in a residential camp setting under the supervision and guidance of pretrained adult volunteers and pretrained camp counselors. The youth are involved in a variety of educational learning experiences, including programs, classes, cooperative living skills, an appreciation and understanding of the out-of-doors, and away-

from-home responsibilities. The emphasis is on educational programs, decision making, group activities, learning to take care of themselves, concern for others and the world in which they live, and application of what they learn when they return home.

*NOTE:* Most youth attending Junior 4-H Camp are already enrolled in 4-H; however, many youth sign-up who have had no previous 4-H connection. Since more than six (6) hours of quality education are provided in this format, every youth attending is permitted and qualified to be a 4-H member. Therefore, every youth should complete and sign a 4-H enrollment form (along with the health and parent agreement forms).

Every adult volunteer should complete and sign a 4-H adult volunteer form since by so doing, he/she will be covered under the liability policy of Virginia Tech.

2. **Cloverbud 4-H Day and Residential Camps** (for ages 5 - 8): Youth participating under the supervision and guidance of pretrained adult volunteers and, if any, pretrained teen counselors. These camps must involve parents/guardians in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the camping event. Youth in such camps participate by one of the following guidelines:
  - Participants are in an existing 4-H Cloverbud group
  - Participants not in an existing 4-H Cloverbud group are permitted to attend but are strongly encouraged to bring their parent or guardian. Realizing that this is the ideal and it is often difficult for parents or guardians to get off from work to attend camp, youth not in an existing 4-H Cloverbud group are permitted to attend provided there is a ratio of one parent/guardian for every five Cloverbud campers.

*NOTE:* The parents and guardians attending Cloverbud 4-H Day or Residential Camps are required to participate in a training program during the camp event. The training is to be done by the Extension agent, 4-H Center Program Director, or trained adult volunteer. The focus of the training is on how to organize and/or be involved with 4-H Cloverbud groups in the back-home neighborhood. In the residential camp setting, the training should be done during the evening to permit working parents to participate.

Every youth should complete and sign a 4-H enrollment form as a 4-H Cloverbud member. Also, every adult volunteer, including parents, should complete and sign a 4-H adult volunteer form, since by so doing, he/she will be covered under the liability policy of Virginia Tech.

3. **Specialty 4-H Camp** (for ages 9 - 19): Youth participating in a residential camp setting under the supervision and guidance of pretrained adult volunteers and pretrained camp counselors. The minimum and maximum age may be any age established by the camp planning committee or program director, ranging from ages 9 - 19. The focus may be on one subject area (wilderness camping, canoeing trip, horse camp, etc.), a variety of educational activities and programs, or a camp for ages that include a wider range than Junior 4-H Camp (all-age camp for 9 - 19, intermediate camp, senior camp, etc.)

Every youth should complete and sign a 4-H enrollment form as a 4-H member. Also, every adult volunteer should complete and sign a 4-H adult volunteer form, since by so doing, he/she will be covered under the liability policy of Virginia Tech.

4. **Day 4-H Camp** (for ages 9 - 19): Youth participating in a day camp setting under the supervision and guidance of pretrained adult volunteers and, if any, pretrained teen counselors. The emphasis is on educational programming in one or more subject matter areas, cooperative living skills, decision making, group activities, concern for others, and the world in which they learn.

Every youth should complete and sign a 4-H enrollment form as a 4-H member. Also, every adult should complete and sign a 4-H adult volunteer form, since by so doing, he/she will be covered under the liability policy of Virginia Tech.

Residential camping is defined as one or more overnight events; day camping does not include spending the night.

Every effort should be made to involve youth attending 4-H camp in year-round 4-H clubs and programs in the respective unit.

## Project Selection

The 4-H project is one of our best tools in helping youth to become capable, mature individuals. Through conducting wisely selected projects, members will:

- Broaden their knowledge
- Develop skills
- Explore subjects in which they have interest
- Learn a variety of methods for doing a specific task
- Assume responsibility for completing a job
- Find satisfaction is a useful work experience
- Learn “whys” as well as “hows”
- Contribute to everyday life of the family

Helping a young person learn to make wise decisions in choosing a project helps to teach him/her the decision making process. A 4-H leader can use this real-life situation to encourage members to gather all facts possible about projects; consider how these facts fit the member's interests, the family situation, and the local club plans; think through some alternate results of choices; and reach a decision and plan for completion. Later the members may evaluate the results of their project choice. Through this course of events, they will have experienced the scientific process of making decisions.

Some guidelines for project selection in a 4-H club are:

- projects should be offered which have enough variety to fit the interest, needs, abilities, and home facilities of members.
- parents should be informed about available projects and members encouraged to discuss their interests with parents.
- previous project or work experience should be considered. Do not encourage a member to enroll in a project that is too easy or difficult for him/her to complete.
- younger members should limit the number of projects conducted to one or two. Older members should choose projects which offer a real challenge and an opportunity for expansion, supplement projects already completed, and provide new experiences.
- will the 4-H'er have the material, equipment, etc., needed to complete the project? If finances are needed, how will this be arranged?
- are enough other members of the club interested in the same project to develop a project group or will the 4-H'er need to conduct the project on an individual basis? Will members maintain interest in the project if they conduct it by themselves?

A key to successful project work is “when members select a project that meets their interest and needs, they have a better chance to enjoy a satisfying, useful experience in 4-H.”

## Procedures for Obtaining 4-H Literature

4-H leaders order all publications and visual aids from the local Extension agent.

Unless it is otherwise indicated, all literature should be ordered by Extension agents via computer from the Extension Distribution Center. Note indications that some literature should be ordered from other sources.

Order only the supply of literature that is needed for one year. Excessive ordering of literature exhausts the supply, prevents others from getting their literature needs, and you often end up with obsolete literature on hand because new literature is developed before your supply is exhausted. Always check a publication's number and revision date with those listed on the up-to-date 4-H literature summary to make certain it is current before distributing literature you have on hand.

Agents should contact the specialist listed under each project if there are questions regarding the project or literature. Specialists will welcome suggestions from you on ways the project can be more meaningful to 4-H'ers.

## Total 4-H Program

The 4-H horse project should be an integral part of the local, county, or unit overall 4-H program. Project members and leaders should participate, cooperate, and be involved in the overall program. Members will greatly benefit from overall participation, county programs, camps, district and state programs such as "Share The Fun," public speaking, and demonstrations. A project is a tool for working with youth and overall 4-H or youth development should be paramount to any single project program or activity. Most of the program activity should focus at the local level.

## Other Projects

Horse project members, especially older members, should be encouraged to enroll in additional projects and activities along with their horse work. Several project areas are highly complementary to the horse projects: teen leader, veterinary science, safety, photography, community improvement, economics conservation, health, leadership, agronomy, money management, etc.

## Other Youth Groups

The 4-H program should be designed to permit cooperation and participation by and with the many other excellent youth programs including riding schools, FFA, Pony Clubs, and scouts. Closer working relationships by all youth groups should result in a better program for all youth.

## Program Direction

Some competition is natural and beneficial but the program should focus on recreation, learning, fun, horsemanship, horse science, sportsmanship, and overall youth development. Members should strive to compete within themselves to "make the best better" and to help other youth. Mounted meetings and events are desirable but can cause hardships for some families lacking transportation. Awards can be made on either the ribbon or on the Danish merit system. Mounted activities should focus on riding, equitation, fitting and showmanship, riding for fun, stable management, safety, trail riding, hunting, endurance riding, drill teams, and training or educational shows.

## General Information

### 4-H Horse Projects

#### 4-H Members

Youth may participate in the 4-H horse program as any one of the types of membership outlined above. The type of program(s) is a decision to be made by local leaders and Extension agents. Youth should be between the ages of 9 and 19 as of January 1 of each year to participate. The program should allow for participation by all youth and interested horse people. Likewise, project animals should allow for all types and kinds of horses and ponies. Project animals may be owned, leased, or borrowed, but specific rules for stewardship are determined by the districts. Project member age requirements may be set for district and state events and programs. Leaders should be aware of animal and youth requirements.

## Project Groups

Most areas will find that the horse program is usually most effective by the organization of special interest or project groups at the local and/or county level. Such groups should be under the direction of one or more dedicated leaders. Some counties find it helpful to also have a county council or advisory group to help coordinate and guide programs. Yearly programs should be jointly planned by members, leaders, and Extension agents. Project groups usually meet on a monthly basis with additional activities such as trail rides, clinics, tours, shows, etc.

## Resource People

Usually, project groups require close supervision of qualified leaders who have the necessary time for organizational work (planning programs, meetings, meeting notices, publicity, etc.). Numerous other people can be used as resource people and instructors for one or two sessions per year: veterinarians, feed dealers, tack shop operators, breeders, trainers, farriers, and professional horse people. Usually, the best horse people are very busy people and are best used as resource personnel. Usually, parents of members are available for organizational work.

## Teen Leaders

Older and experienced 4-H members should be used as teen leaders. They should be encouraged to enroll in the teen leader project program in addition to their horse project. Teen leaders can assume a great deal of responsibility for project instructions, home visits, and general work with younger members.

## Virginia 4-H Light Horse and Pony Projects

What 4-H'ers will learn and do: Members may select one or more of the projects listed below. Emphasis is on equine selection, nutrition, management, riding, recreation, fun, and horsemanship. Horseback riding can provide for an outdoor sports fitness program for physical, personal, and emotional development, including confidence building. The sport can develop into a life-long hobby or business.

All 4-H members owning or managing one or more horses should enroll for and complete the Horse Management Project. They may enroll in this unit in successive years. It may be their only project, or they may enroll in other projects in addition to the management project. Members should select and manage at least one horse for all projects except the horseless (non-ownership) projects, which do not require the use of an animal and are suitable for all 4-H'ers, especially for school-oriented programs. The Introduction To The Horse Project is designed for members ages 9-10. The Horses Are Fun Project would be the logical project to follow. More advanced horseless projects include Horses and Horsemanship and Horse Science. The Self-Determined Project also does not require the use of a horse but must be oriented to the horse. This project is designed for senior 4-H horse project members who have the experience, resources, and ability to conduct an advanced program.

The riding projects should be completed in progression. If groups do not want to use the progression series, members may enroll successively in the Horse Management unit. The Horse Business Project is designed for older, experienced horse project members. The Mare and Foal Project should also be limited to members with the necessary knowledge and resources to conduct a breeding program. Members may enroll for a given project as many times as desirable.

The Progressive 4-H Project Riding Series (Clarifications): All leaders should obtain all of the materials available and review project opportunities. Programs may be adjusted to local needs and used under the direct supervision of Extension agents and leaders. Age requirements for completing the riding units are as follows: Novice - 10 years or older; Horseman - 13 years or older; Horsemaster - 16 years or older. Horsemasters should be expert horsemen/women and top-notch 4-H members capable of professional contributions to and employment in the industry.

Members may enroll for each unit as many times as desirable and may progress according to their interest and ability. Many will not advance beyond the first or second levels, and there would be no special distinctions between levels as far as youth development is concerned. The goal is not to make Horsemasters out of all interested in horses. Horsemasters may continue on as teen leaders, repeat the unit, or design new horse projects.

Members may complete some tests on horses other than their own or managed project. Most projects should be on a project-year basis, but progression should not necessarily be limited to this. The projects will require inspectors for certain tests. The selection and implementation of this should be arranged at the local level and/or county level.

Leaders can establish the appropriate procedures and approval for inspection at these levels. The tests are not competitive, and many tests can be replaced with alternative tests designed by leaders according to local needs and interests.

All new members should enroll in the novice unit, but experienced youths should be advanced into the higher units with no definite time schedule. Some members may be working on sections in two or more units at the same time and then complete each unit as the member fills the age requirement.

The 100-mile ride for Horsemasters may be made by using more than one horse. This ride should be attempted only with horses in trail condition and be supervised by an adult distance rider and/or veterinarian. The completed Horsemaster book should be sent to the state Extension horse specialist for review and approval.



## Projects

1. Virginia 4-H Riding Projects: (Progressive Units)
  - a. Basic Horsemanship
  - b. Novice
  - c. Horseman
  - d. Horsemaster
2. Horse Management
3. Virginia 4-H Horseless Horse Projects:
  - a. Introduction to the Horse
  - b. Horses Are Fun
  - c. Horses & Horsemanship
  - d. Horse Science
4. Horse Business Project (Horse Development, Training, Marketing and/or Trading)
5. Mare and Foal (Horse Production Project)
6. Self-Determined Project

## Literature

406-053	Basic Horsemanship
406-097	Novice
406-098	Horseman
406-099	Horsemaster
406-120	Introduction to the Horse
406-105	Horses Are Fun
406-093	Horses & Horsemanship
406-094	Horse Science
406-121	Horse Management
406-100	Mare and Foal
406-104	Horse Business Project
406-107	Self-Determined Project

## 4-H Reference Materials

406-200	Unit I*, Horses and Horsemanship -\$1.00/ copy
406-201	Unit II*, Horse Science - \$1.00/copy
406-740	Virginia 4-H Horse Selection Manual

## General Horse Reference Materials

406-472	Feeding Light Horses and Ponies
406-304	Vitamin and Mineral Nutrition of the Horse
418-008	Horse Pastures In Virginia
406-620	Hays For Horses
406-622	Packing and Outfitting
406-903	Internal Parasites of Horses

*\*Denotes order from Extension Distribution Center.  
Make checks payable to Treasurer, Virginia Tech.*

## Suggested Activities

Club Meetings  
Guest Instructors  
Mounted Meetings  
Tours, Field Days, etc.  
Judging Events  
Riding  
Demonstrations  
Drill Team

## Tests and Measures

Movies  
Sales  
Camping  
Packing  
Horse Bowls  
Shows  
Trail Ride  
Endurance Ride  
Hunting  
Parades  
Community Service  
Achievement  
Gymkhana Events  
Riding for The Handicapped  
Riding for The Disadvantaged  
Competitive Ride  
Educational Clinics  
Vaulting

## General 4-H Reference Materials

*Obtain from Extension Agent*

388-018	Virginia 4-H Recognition & Awards Hand- book
388-568	Virginia 4-H Projects

## Additional References

Leaders can draw upon a vast source of educational materials and personnel assistance. Extension publications are listed in preceding sections. Some selected references are listed below (direct contact with the source by leader suggested):

## Organizations

1. State and national breed associations and organizations.
2. Virginia Horse Council, PO Box 72, Riner, VA 24149
3. Virginia Horse Shows Assn., 32 Ashby St., Suite 204, Warrenton, VA 22186.
4. American Horse Shows Assn., Inc., 527 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022
5. American Horse Council, Inc., 1700 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006
6. North American Riding for The Handicapped Assn., PO Box 33150, Denver, CO 80233.

## Materials

1. State and national horse magazines.
2. State and national breed associations and show organizations (rule books).
3. *Handbook for the Novice Horseman* by Harry Disston, Eiser Inc., 1304 North Broad St., Hillside, NJ 07205
4. *Elementary Dressage* by Harry Disston, ARCO Publishers, 219 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10003

5. *Horses and Horsemanship* by M.E. Ensminger, The Interstate Printers & Publishers, Inc., Danville, Illinois
6. *The Western Horse* by John A. Gorman, The Interstate Printers & Publishers, Inc., Danville, Illinois
7. *Start Riding Right* by Commandant Jean Licart, ARCO, 219 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003
8. *Horses: Their Selection, Care and Handling* by Margaret Cabell Self, A. S. Barnes & Co., Inc., Cranbury, New Jersey
9. *Approved Practices In Raising and Handling Horses* by Ulmer and Juergenson, The Interstate Printers & Publishers, Inc., Danville, Illinois
10. *How To Shoe A Horse* by Marion C. Manwill, A.S. Barnes & Co., Inc., Cranbury, New Jersey
11. *Horse Behavior and Training* by R. W. Miller, Montana State University (bookstore) Bozeman, MT 59715
12. *Horse Packing In Pictures* by Francis W. Davis, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, New York
13. *The Horse* by Evans, Borton, Hintz and Van Vleck, W.H. Freeman and Company, 41 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10010

### **Other Visuals and Materials**

Extension agents have access to a good number of videos, movies, and slide sets available from Virginia Tech. Leaders should also develop their own materials as feasible. Leaders may obtain excellent printed materials and movies by directly contacting the various state and national horse breed associations and organizations. Many commercial firms (feed and drug companies, for example) have excellent materials available upon request. Horse magazines also provide for excellent reference materials.

Extension agents also have available a complete set of 4-H related materials for all projects including awards handbook, teen leaders, leader's guides, movies, project manuals, etc. Some of the best teaching techniques include learning visits to project members homes, sales, shows, farms, clinics, and judging sessions.

## **Videos, Slide Sets, and 16mm Films on Horses Available from Virginia Tech**

### **Video Tapes**

*All are VHS*

- All Breed Horse Show
- All in a Day's Ride
- America's Horse—The Horse American Made
- Applied Horse Nutrition
- Arabian Type Presentation
- Barn Construction
- Basic Techniques of Riding & Jumping
- Bits and Biting

- Black Stallion, The
- Breaking the Cycle That Kills (Parasite Control)
- Breaking Yearlings
- Championship Barrel Racing
- Common Parasites of Horses
- Conformation
- Cutting Clinic with Joe Heim
- Dally Team Roping
- Emergency Care
- Equestrian Helmet Safety
- Exciting World of Horses
- Foal Management
- Foaling
- Foaling Management & The Broodmare Teleconference
- For Your Pleasure (Intro Basics of Tennessee Walking Horse)
- Horse Judging Parts 1 and 2
- Horse Psychology & Ground Work
- Horse Sense
- Horse Sense III: The Rider
- Horsemanship
- Horsemanship Parts 4, 2, 6
- Horseshoeing by John Roark
- Hunter Seat Equitation
- In the English Tradition, Part 1
- In the English Tradition, Part 2
- In the Practice Pen with Roy: Roping Basics
- Individual Demonstration Contest - Horse, 1&2
- Introduction to Dressage
- Introduction To Horse Selection
- Judging Heading, Heeling and Calf Roping
- Judging Reining
- Judging the Hunter Under Saddle
- Long Distance Riding
- Look Into the Past (Tennessee Walking Horse)
- Modern Techniques in Steer Wrestling
- National 4-H Horse Project Winner
- Oral Reason Terminology For Horse Judging Teams
- Psychology of Horse Training
- Public Speaking Contest—Horse
- Reining
- Reining Horse
- Reining with Craig Johnson
- Resistance Free Riding
- Resistance Free Training The Problem Horse
- Sales Preparation
- Showmanship
- Showmanship/Halter
- Speed Events
- Stallion Management
- Survival of the Fittest (AQHA)
- Taking A New Look at Verminous Colic
- Team Demonstration Contest - Horse
- Team Roping with Walt Woodward & Julio Moreno
- Tennessee Walking Seat Equitation
- Through The Gaits of Pleasure—Tennessee Walking Horses—Plantation

Trail Horse Class  
Tyra Arabians—1987  
Unbridled Opportunities: Careers In The Horse Industry  
Weaning  
Western Horsemanship  
Western Pleasure  
Western Pleasure Riding Clinic: Tommy Manion  
*Winning Halter Horse: Jerry Wells*  
Working Cow Horse  
World's Most Versatile Horse  
You and Your Pony Series

#### **Slide Sets**

Basic Principles of Foot Care and Cold Shoeing (cassette & script)  
Buy A Horse—Not Trouble (cassette & script)  
Care of Your Horse's Feet  
Choosing, Assembling and Using Bridles (cassette & script)  
Competitive Trail Riding (cassette & script)  
Conformation and Athletic Ability  
English Saddle Construction (cassette & script)  
Equine Eyes (cassette & script)  
Genes for Color in the Horse  
Genes for White Patterns on the Horse  
Genetics of Coat Color of Horses (cassette & script)  
Haltering and Tying (cassette & script)  
Health Hints for Your Horse (cassette & script)  
Equipment, Planning, Preparation—Horseback Packing - I (cassette & script)  
Saddling & Loading the Pack Horse—Horseback Packing - II (cassette & script)  
Horse Breed Identification  
Horse Safety—Saddling, Bridling, Riding Western (cassette & script)  
Horse Safety for the Hunt Seat Rider (cassette & script)  
Horse Safety on the Ground—Catching, Leading, & Grooming (cassette & script)  
Hot Horseshoeing (cassette & script)  
Intermediate Trail Riding (cassette & script)  
Internal Parasites of Horses (cassette & script)  
Judging Horses on Conformation (script)  
Longe Line Training (cassette & script)  
Martingales, Tie Down, Draw Reins  
Mechanics of a Trail System - Part I  
Mechanics of a Trail System - Part II  
Military Balanced Seat  
Miscellaneous Tack & Equipment (cassette & script)  
Parts of a Horse  
Plaiting the Hunter's Mane and Tail (cassette & script)  
Practical Horse Psychology (cassette & script)  
Pre-Bit Hackamore Training (cassette & script)  
Przewalski Horse, The (script)  
Saddle Selection (cassette & script)

Techniques of Line Driving (cassette & script)  
Tips for Pony Pleasure Drivers  
Training by Driving (cassette & script)  
Urban Horsekeeping  
Western Pleasure Trail Riding (cassette & script)  
Western Saddle Construction (cassette & script)  
What A Judge Looks for in Equitation Classes (cassette & script)  
*Women on Horseback (cassette & script)*  
Your Horse the U-Haul

#### **Films**

African Horse Sickness, 28 min., Color  
Artists' Horse, The, 20 min., Color (Presentation of the Morgan Horse—film will interest people who have art as a primary interest)  
Basic Elements of Hunter Seat Equitation, 30 min.  
Basic Elements of Saddle Seat Equitation, 30 min.  
Basic Principles of Stock Seat Equitation, 28 min.  
Breakfast for Champions, 14 min., Color  
Common Hoof Problems, 21 min., Color  
Cradle of Champions, 25 min., Color  
Exceptional Equestrians, 17 min., Color  
Horse Feed and Horse Feeding, 27 min., Color  
Horse Judging I & II  
Horse Sense, 1st Year  
Horse Sense, 2nd Year  
Care of Animals in the Field, 32 min., B&W  
Jumping and Cross-Country Riding, 33 min., B&W  
Mounting, Dismounting, and the Military Seat, 32 min., B&W  
Saddling and Bridling, 24 min., B&W  
Horsemanship: Supplying Exercises, 17 min., B&W  
Hounds and Horses, 6 min., B&W  
Introduction to the Arabian Horse, An, 33 min., Color  
Judging Mares at Halter, 20 min., Color  
Judging Reining, 20 min., Color  
Judging Roping, 16 min., Color  
Judging Western Riding, 29 min., Color  
Judging Working Hunter, 14 min., Color  
Morgan Horse, The, 40 min., Color  
Mr. Decathlon, 31 min., Color  
On the Fifth Day, 30 min., Color  
Pre-Natal and Post-Natal Care of Mares and Foals, 17 min., Color  
Quarter Horse: The Horse America Made, 50 min., Color  
Ride, Cowboy, Ride, 50 min., Color  
Survival of the Fittest, 50 min., Color  
Teasing and Breeding Procedures, Color  
They're Off and Running, 25 min., Color  
Training a Quarter Horse, 9 min., B&W  
V.E.E.: A National Emergency, 11 min., Color  
Working Hunter and Jumper, The, 17 min., Color  
Youth and the Quarter Horse, 50 min., Color

*The above video tapes, slide sets, and films are available to the faculty and staff of the colleges, Extension and Research Divisions of Virginia Tech. Agents can order directly from The University Library Media Center, Virginia Tech.*

# Sample Calendar for Project Groups

## **September**

- Organizational meeting
- Project requirements
- State 4-H Horse Show
- Project visits

## **October**

- Project plans
- Breeds of saddle horses
- Packing trip
- Local trail ride
- Hunting
- Combined training event

## **November**

- Safety
- Demonstrations
- Farm Tour
- Parade

## **December**

- Part of the horse
- Demonstrations
- Party
- Community service project

## **January**

- Unsoundnesses
- Introduction To Judging
- Accumulated Achievement Records
- Stable management
- Horse Bowl

## **February**

- Applied nutrition
- Hoof Care
- Project group tour to a sale
- Conditioning for competitive riding
- Recognition banquet

## **March**

- Demonstrations
- State Horsemen's Seminar
- Tests and measures
- Judging trip

## **April**

- Schooling Show (Fitting and Showmanship, Equitation)
- Preventive medicine
- Breed field day and farm visits
- Hay quality
- Riding sessions for disadvantaged youth

## **May**

- Pleasure ride
- District contests
- Judging team training sessions
- Family night
- Project visits

## **June**

- State contests
- Local shows
- State horse judging contest
- Equipment care
- Sportsmanship

## **July**

- 4-H polo
- District Show
- Horsemanship School
- Camp
- Small group riding and picnic
- Local Gymkhana

## **August**

- Fairs, shows, exhibits
- Horsemanship schools
- Overnight ride
- Tests and measures
- Tour to large show or event
- Publicity
- Recruiting new members
- Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships

# Horses Are Fun Project

## (A Suggested Guideline)

The Horses Are Fun Project is designed for all 4-H members including owners and non-owners. The project is especially designed for school type 4-H programs and thousands of youth can be acquainted with horses and horsemanship. Extension agents may line up school groups and coordinate the program to involve adult and junior leaders. Members should be encouraged to participate in the overall 4-H horse and 4-H club program and would be limited only by activities requiring specific animal care. An outline of a sample program is listed below:

### **September**

Organizational meeting - Extension agent  
Project plans - adult leader (leader to coordinate balance of program)  
Horse movie

### **October**

Introduction to the horse - adult leader  
Horse movie  
Horse books and magazines

### **November**

Part of the horse - junior leader  
Short talks and demonstrations - members  
Record books - junior leader

### **December**

Saddles and equipment - junior leader  
Short talks and demonstrations - members  
Visits to farms, stables, feed stores, tack shops, veterinarians, etc. - (members in groups or on their own)

### **January**

Breeds and colors - junior leader  
Reports of visits - members

### **February**

Selecting and buying a horse - adult horseman  
Short talks and demonstrations about horse care - members

### **March**

Horse care and health - veterinarian  
Short talks and demonstrations - members  
4-H contests and events

### **April**

Safety - junior leader  
Riding sessions for members - all leaders  
Visits to shows, events, etc. - members

### **May**

Project completion and volunteer coordinator - Extension agent  
Turn in record books  
Horse movie

## **Resources:**

1. Local 4-H horse project members, leaders, horsemen, and related industries.
2. Videos, slide sets, and films - Agents to order directly from the University Library Media Center, Virginia Tech. Breed groups and others have films available for free or rent.
3. Breed materials, magazines, etc. - Write directly to each source. Most breed associations have excellent materials.
4. It is suggested that one or more volunteer leaders be utilized to assist in preplanning and to conduct and coordinate the program primarily in its entire operation.

# Project Record Score

		<i>Your Rating</i>	<i>Rating by 4-H Leader</i>
Attendance at Meeting — (perfect score if all club meetings or tours have been attended).....	5	_____	_____
Stable — Is the stable or stall large enough for the comfort of the horse?.....	10	_____	_____
Sanitation — Are quarters clean, dry, well-bedded, and well-ventilated? Is manure storage adequate?.....	5	_____	_____
Proper Ration — Are clean, dust-free grains and hay fed in sufficient quantities?.....	10	_____	_____
Is the member familiar with the type, amount, and quality of grain and hay being fed?.....	5	_____	_____
Condition of Horse — Does horse show evidence of being well-fed and groomed daily?.....	5	_____	_____
Are the saddle and bridle clean and well kept?.....	5	_____	_____
Does member care for horse personally? — Give perfect score when member does all, or practically all, of the work. ....	5	_____	_____
Feed Record — Complete and up-to-date?.....	5	_____	_____
Feed Trough and Manger — Are feeding arrangements such that the horse has easy access to hay and grain?.....	5	_____	_____
Hay — Is right amount of good-quality hay being fed?.....	5	_____	_____
Water — Is clean, fresh water being provided in sufficient quantity?.....	5	_____	_____
Salt or Mineral — Are salt or minerals available?.....	5	_____	_____
Exercise — Is horse being properly exercised?.....	10	_____	_____
Care of Feet — Are feet properly trimmed or shod?.....	15	_____	_____
<i>TOTAL</i> .....	100	_____	_____

## TOTAL RECORD SCORE

Project Record \_\_\_\_\_ Showmanship & Record \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Score (40) \_\_\_\_\_ Grooming Score (30) \_\_\_\_\_ Book (30) \_\_\_\_\_

LEADER SHOULD VISIT EACH MEMBER AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE AND ALL NEW MEMBERS SHOULD BE VISITED AND THEIR HORSE AND FACILITIES INSPECTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

# Project Groups

## Working with the Group

Your job as a leader is to help all the members enrolled in the project gain more knowledge and skills by guiding them in their work. How much you can and are willing to do is up to you. What you do will also depend on the needs and interests of the members.

You will find that each member has a different background, personality, traits, and aspirations. The successful leader understands these differences and is tolerant, patient, and sympathetic. He/she provides situations that give boys and girls more responsibilities as they become more experienced and recognizes work well done so they will be encouraged to do even better.

To be more specific, the following list shows the kinds of things leaders should do or arrange to have done. The more of these accomplished, the more club members will gain from the project and the more successful the project year will be.

1. Make sure the members and their parents understand the project and its opportunities.
2. Help the members plan their project work so it meets their needs, interests, abilities, and family situation.
3. Help the members locate and select their horse if necessary. Help with literature, materials, or other equipment.
4. Conduct project training meetings.
5. Help the group plan project tours or field trips.
6. Visit all members at home. Make suggestions for improving project work. Compliment the member on any part of the project well done.
7. Encourage and help the members in giving demonstrations and talks relating to their project work.
8. Help the members keep their project records up-to-date and encourage members to complete them when the project year is finished.
9. See that good projects, good practices, and good work get recognition.
10. Assign responsibilities to junior leaders and then give them guidance.
11. Attend community 4-H meetings and meetings for leaders.
12. Keep the Extension agent informed of your club plans and coordinate your club activities with other county 4-H activities.
13. Encourage members to participate in other 4-H activities so they become aware of the broad opportunities in the 4-H program.

# Getting the Project Started and Program Development

A 4-H club can be organized as a community club or as a project group.

A community club has several different projects. One group of boys and girls may be enrolled in the horse project, another in the gardening project, etc. Each project has an adult leader who takes responsibility for his field and there is also a community club leader who is responsible for the activities of the club as a whole.

In a project group, all the members are enrolled in the same project and the leader takes responsibility for all club activities. At least five members are needed for a project group.

The type you choose will depend somewhat upon the situation in your area. If there is a community club, the boys and girls may find it more fun to belong to the larger group.

## Tips on Organizing a Group

Even though community interest in the 4-H horse project may be high, you will often need to do some advance groundwork before the group is actually organized. Here are some tips to help you get started:

1. Talk to parents, boys and girls, and others in the community about 4-H club work and the horse project.
2. Visit homes of prospective members who either own or have access to a riding horse or who have shown interest in buying a horse.
3. Talk to the local newspaper editor and to the officers of service clubs and other groups that can help publicize and support the project.
4. Report to your county Extension agent on the prospects for a successful club. Receive approval to proceed.
5. Arrange for the agent or another qualified person to be at a meeting to explain the 4-H program and membership and project requirements.
6. Set the time and place for the meeting and notify prospective members and their parents.

## Holding the First Meeting

If you are leading your first group, ask the agent or an experienced leader to help you plan the first meeting. Here are some suggestions:

1. Explain the requirements for the 4-H horse project.

2. Develop with parents their part in the 4-H program. Boys and girls should have the permission and full support of their parents before they enroll in the 4-H horse project.
3. Outline some of the things the club will do during the year. Include special events like tours, fairs, and picnics.
4. Select the time and place for club meetings.
5. Fill out enrollment blanks.
6. Distribute project materials to members.
7. Let the group get acquainted.

You may want to have an older club member who has had leadership experience serve as temporary chairperson until the group has elected its permanent officers.

## Suggestions for the Second Meeting

With the second meeting, you can get started on project work. You'll also want to be sure to:

1. Distribute record books and help members fill out the section on project plans. Give examples of what should go into this plan.
2. Have the members elect officers and select committee chairmen and members.
3. Develop the program of work for the club year.
4. Devote part of the meeting to recreation.

## Helping Members Select Horses

Some members will already own a horse when they join the 4-H club. If they do not, you should be prepared to consult with parents and club members on the type of horse most suitable for the boy or girl.

Selecting the correct horse will add to the satisfaction, the pleasure, and possibly the profit of the member. Young members should not select horses too large or too headstrong for them to handle. Older and larger members may benefit most by selecting a yearling or two-year-old and doing all the training. In this case, selecting a horse that has been trained by a skilled or professional trainer would defeat the purpose of the project.

On the farm, one or more broodmares for foal production may be advisable. Then the member may keep the foal until it is mature and do all the steps in training. Registered mares are not required, but they may return a greater profit than grade mares.

Useful saddle horses may be found in all light breeds. Sometimes their value depends more on their care and training than on their breeding.

Horses should be selected primarily for athletic use, suitability, disposition, soundness, and health. Affordable price should also be considered.

## Group Organization and Meetings

If you are leading a project group, you will need to help the members organize the group, elect officers, and the like.

The group should hold a regular meeting at least once a month. A typical meeting has four parts, although every meeting need not have all four.

1. **Opening:** This should take from 5 to 10 minutes and should have a definite 4-H emphasis. The opening might include the flag salute, the club pledge, and some club songs. This might be followed with a roll call at which each member could respond to his/her name with news of a good article or publication about horses, news of an important coming horse event, a report on his/her project, or a report on a farm visit.
2. **Business Session:** From 10 to 15 minutes should be enough time for this. Besides routine business, the club will want to plan special events like a part for parents or a club tour. Don't let the group waste time on unimportant details. Have the president refer matters to committees which can report to the members at the next meeting.
3. **Project Work:** This is the most important part of the meeting and should take from 20 to 40 minutes. The leader, assistant leader, or junior leader is in charge of this portion of the meeting and has instructions about the project. This part of the meeting may include brief talks, demonstrations, and judging training given by leaders, members, parents, or resource people. Reports of trips to 4-H camps or fairs may also be included.
4. **Recreation:** About 30 minutes is enough for recreation. The member who is recreation leader can select and direct games, some of which may involve riding horses. Refreshments, if served, come during this period.

Training and guiding the officers is an important part of your job as a leader. Ask the county agent for suggestions and materials.

## Planning the Program for the Year

Annual project programs based on the needs and interests of members will vary from year to year and between groups. Teaching instruction may be adapted from the outlines in the progressive literature series and/or the horse science and horsemanship manuals.



## The Subject Matter You Teach

As the leader and teacher for the 4-H project members in your club you will want to appraise the subject matter offered in VCE Publication 406-094, *Horses & Horsemanship*, and VCE 406-093, *Horse Science*. Your study of these materials will prepare you to assist your club members in planning a series of meetings for the entire club year or perhaps for two or three years. Following is an outline offered in the two manuals.

### **Horse & Horsemanship Unit —**

This unit includes sections on:

1. Glossary of Horse Terms
2. Breeds of Light Horses and Ponies
3. Color and Color Markings of Horses
4. Judging Horses (2 lessons)
5. Gaits of Horses
6. Horsemanship (including aids)
7. Equipment and Tack and Its Care
8. Grooming and Preparation for the Show
9. The Show Ring: Are You and Your Horse Ready?
10. Showing Light Horses at Halter
11. Care of the Horse's Feet and Legs
12. Training Your Horse
13. Safety Rules and Precautions

### **Horse Science Unit —**

This unit includes sections on:

1. The Nature and Behavior of the Horse
2. Functional Anatomy of the Horse
3. Unsoundness and Blemishes of Horses
4. Determining a Horse's Age by Its Teeth
5. Principles of Reproduction in Horses
6. How Inheritance Works
7. The Digestive System of the Horse
8. The Nutrients and Their Importance
9. Feeds for Horses
10. Balancing Rations for Horses
11. General Health and Sanitation Principles
12. Disease Problems of Horses
13. External Parasites Affecting the Horse
14. Internal Parasites Affecting the Horse

## Teaching and Supervising the Project

You can use a variety of methods to teach the project. Choose the one that is suited to the subject at hand and that allows the members to participate actively in the learning process. If you arrange for an outsider to teach at one of the meetings, be sure he/she understands that boys and girls usually learn more by doing something than by just sitting and listening. It is easier to obtain teaching help if you can give the person you ask a concise outline for the job — including the degree of learning desired for the club members.

You will want to encourage all members to complete the work they start. See that they meet the minimum requirements for the 4-H horse project.

## Home Visits

The earlier in the club year that a home visit can be made, the better. A home visit will encourage the members, increase the interest of their parents, and give you a chance to see how the members are progressing and if they need special help. Home visits are especially desirable for first-year members and members whose interest is lagging. These visits give you the opportunity to talk to both parents and members about the project. If you like, you can use the "Home Visit Checklist" to help members get off to a good start and to offer suggestions for future work.

## Records

Records give members business training and help them to see their progress and achievements. Records are also the basis of many 4-H awards. Club members must complete the record book before they receive a 4-H pin at the end of the year. Check to see if records are up to date. Encourage record keeping by having club members add a blank page to the record book for pictures of the club and themselves with their horses.

## Demonstrations and/or Illustrated Talks

Showing and telling others how to do something is one of the best ways for club members to learn how to do it themselves. Giving a demonstration helps members:

1. Develop news skills.
2. Develop initiative.
3. Develop poise and confidence.
4. Gain greater knowledge of the subject.
5. Gain ability in expressing themselves.
6. Receive recognition from others.

Encourage each member to give a demonstration at least once during the club year.

Here are some suggestions for demonstrations:

1. Approaching, haltering, and leading a horse.
2. Saddling, bridling, and adjusting the stirrups.
3. Mounting and dismounting, proper seat and posture of rider.
4. Use of aids in controlling the horse — voice, hands, legs, position of body.
5. The different gaits and their influence on posture of rider.
6. Changing leads.
7. Teaching a colt to lead.
8. Picking up and cleaning the horse's feet.

9. Hoof trimming.
10. Proper shoeing.
11. The longe line and its use.
12. Showing at the halter.
13. Clipping and grooming.
14. Braiding mane, foretop, and tail.
15. Care of equipment.
16. Repair of equipment — sewing and riveting.
17. Judging horses.
18. Determining age by the horse's teeth.
19. Detecting unsoundnesses and blemishes.
20. Teaching the horse to jump.
21. Safe hauling, loading, and unloading.
22. Feed mixing.
23. Opening and closing gates from horseback.
24. Ground tying.
25. Useful knots and restraining devices.
26. Hobbling and picketing horses.
27. A specific disease.
28. A specific parasite.
29. Safety.
30. Gaits and faults in way-of-going.
31. Breed type.
32. Conformation related to movement.
33. First aid.
34. Buying a horse.
35. Suitability.
36. Packing.
37. Conditioning for a specific event.
38. Parts of the horse
39. Nutrition, reproduction or genetics, etc.
40. Pasture management.
41. Forages.
42. Hay quality.
43. Soil tests.
44. Psychology.
45. Exercise physiology.
46. Blood chemistry.
47. Facilities.
48. Vision.
49. Vaulting.
50. Rope work

You and the members can also probably think of many others. Help each member choose a demonstration that is suited to his level of ability — one that he will be able to do well and that will also help him learn more about the project.

Demonstrations are also designed for contest purposes for local, district, and state contests. Leaders should be advised of rules, events, and score cards for this program, (available from Extension agents).

# Virginia 4-H Horse Judging Program

## I. Objectives

1. To provide educational experiences for 4-H horse project members and more specifically;
  - a. To learn the fine points about selecting and judging horses
  - b. To make accurate observations
  - c. To evaluate observations and differences
  - d. To arrive at a definite decision
  - e. To make an organized set of notes
  - f. To explain decisions through oral reasons

## II. County Training

Instruction should be provided by Extension agents and project leaders to as many 4-H club members as feasible. The following series of topics might be included in the educational program:

1. Part of the horse
2. Unsoundnesses
3. Breed type (per breed association rule books and standards)
4. Conformation
5. Way-of-going
6. Faults in conformation and in way-of-going
7. Performance class specifications
8. Judging at halter
9. Judging performance classes
10. Terminology
11. Oral reasons
12. Practice sessions

## III. Selection of a County Team

There will be no limit on the number of contestants per unit. However, "...a county contest, clinic, or organized training session to properly prepare contestants to judge and give reasons... is required." 4-H'ers meeting the age and training requirement are eligible to compete in the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest. Juniors are 9-13 as of January 1 of the current year and Seniors are 14-18 as of January 1 of the current year. These teams must be county teams (no multiple county combinations). A junior or senior county team may be represented by one, two, three, or four individuals and where a complete team is not present, the individual(s) may compete for individual awards. The purpose of the contest is to stimulate interest and participation in the program and to recognize judging achievement. Selection should be on an open, competitive basis. The county teams should be trained and accompanied by a qualified project leader.

## IV. State Contest

1. The state contest will be held in the summer, date and location to be announced. There will be no limit on the number of contestants a county may enter. Eligibility requirements of contestants will be followed as set forth in the Virginia 4-H Awards Handbook, except that there will not be any district elimination contests. Responsibility for eligibility per the handbook is a duty of the local agent and leader and all members should be acquainted with the rules at the beginning of the year. Teams must be entered by the Extension agent on Extension Form 388-078, Certificate of Eligibility for 4-H Judging Contests, to Extension Animal Scientist, Horses, Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, Litton Reaves Hall, Virginia Tech (0306), Blacksburg, VA 24061 by designated date. The entry should be accompanied by a letter advising name and address of leader in charge of the team. Leaders and Extension agents will be responsible for arranging travel, lodging, and meals for their team. All interested groups may participate as spectators. The county team score will be composed of the three high scoring individuals from the county team. *Entry form should indicate which members are juniors and which are seniors.*
2. Scoring will be based on the Hormel computing system with 50 points being a perfect score on a class placing or on a set of oral reasons. All classes consist of four horses. Halter classes will be numbered 1-2-3-4 left to right from the rear. Riders of performance horses will have exhibitors numbers (1, 2, 3, or 4). Fifteen minutes will be allowed for placing halter classes and 10 minutes will be allowed to place performance classes.
3. The contest committee will attempt to select only horses that are serviceably sound. At the beginning of each class, if the official judge determines that a horse is not sound, that horse will be identified to the contestants and should be placed at the bottom of the class.
4. Performance horses will be shown at the walk, trot, and canter, and at a hand-gallop in the case of English Pleasure and Hunters Under Saddle. The horses will also be required to back and stand quietly. Horses should be judged on manners, way of going, and response of horse to rider. Reining horses will be judged according to the VHSA rule book. Tack and attire and equitation not to be generally considered.
5. The four animals in each class shall be of the same breed, sex, and approximate age. The state contest will include four or five halter classes

with a set of oral reasons on three classes, and two or three pleasure classes with oral reasons on one class. The classes may include any of the following breeds. Oral reasons *will not* be required of junior judging team members. An opportunity may be provided for juniors to elect to give one or more sets of reasons not to be tabulated.

### **Halter**

Hunter Type Thoroughbreds  
American Saddle Horse  
Quarter Horse  
Welsh  
Shetland  
Paint Horse  
Arabian  
Appaloosa  
Tennessee Walking Horse  
Morgan Horse  
Thoroughbred Yearlings

### **Performance**

Western Pleasure  
Hunters Under Saddle  
English Pleasure  
Reining (Stock Horse)  
Working Hunters (over fences)  
Plantation Walking Horse  
Three- or Five-Gaited Saddle Horses  
Racking Horses

## V. Awards

**State Awards** — Donor To Be Announced

**Individuals** — Ribbons to six high overall individuals (Jr. & Sr. contest)

**Teams** — Ribbons to team members and coaches of the six high teams (Jr. & Sr. Contest)

**Trophies** — High individual - Overall (Jr. & Sr. Contest)

**High team** — Overall (Jr. & Sr. Contest)

**State Team** — State 4-H judging teams will be selected according to the Virginia 4-H Awards Handbook to train for and compete in at least two of the following contests:

1. SE Regional 4-H Horse Judging Contest
2. National Youth Arabian Judging Contest
3. Youth All-American Quarter Horse Judging Contest
4. National 4-H Horse Judging Contest
5. National Morgan Horse Judging Contest
6. Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration Contest
7. American Junior Quarter Horse Association Contest

Other senior county teams may have the option in order of choice by placings (after first team contest trips are determined) to enter any one of the out-of-state contests. In such case, the county team would remain as a unit. All details pertaining to these trips must be handled at the unit level, leader coached and travelled, and locally financed. Such teams must request entry through the state Extension Horse Specialist.

## VI. Reference Materials

Various publications may be ordered from the Extension Distribution Center. Videos, slide sets, and films may be ordered from the University Library Media Center, Virginia Tech. Also, breed groups and others have videos, etc., for free or rent. For breed materials, magazines, etc., write directly to each source. Most breed associations have excellent materials.

The American Youth Horse Council in cooperation with the American Association of Equine Practitioners, horse industry professionals, and Extension educators has developed the Horse Industry Handbook. It is available from the American Youth Horse Council, 4093 Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY 40511-8434.

## VII. Rule Books

Judging classes will be generally scored and conducted according to the rule books of the American Horse Show Association and the Virginia Horse Shows Association. Breed classes will be judging according to the respective breed standards.

## VIII. Other Teams

Surrounding states may enter one 4-H team each for practice purposes. The Virginia Arabian Horse Association and the Virginia Quarter Horse Association may enter one youth team each for practice purposes. Many qualified volunteer people are available at all levels to assist and conduct the program. Judging training can be implemented at many farms, stables and shows.

### CLUB TOURS

Besides stimulating interest and enthusiasm of individual members, club tours serve to improve the quality of project work and strengthen parental interest. For tours to be of most value -

1. Arrange a suitable meeting place.
2. Invite parents and other leaders.
3. Plan transportation
4. Plan exhibits or teaching assignments.
5. Plan refreshments or lunch.

### EXHIBITS

Sometime during the club year, have an exhibit for parents — a special occasion or club meeting with re-

freshments and entertainment. This helps members get ready to take part in fairs, too. Or you may want to have members set up an exhibit for the club. This could be of equipment, parts of the horse, etc.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Use special events and activities as teaching aids. Events of special interest to 4-H horse project members are judging schools, horse shows and schools, horse auctions, field days, farm and ranch tours, and local, county, and state fairs. These events let members meet new people, make new friends, and receive inspiration for better 4-H club work. Events and activities are usually something which members work toward. An effort should be made to keep these activities in proper perspective to the overall project.

When well planned, such events help maintain interest, give valuable training to members, and stimulate re-enrollment. Members should help in the planning and carrying out of all programs. County and state events have a place in the 4-H program, but do not take the place of local 4-H events planned and conducted by club members. Always remember that these events and other teaching tools are not the important thing in themselves, but are only a means of helping boys and girls develop.

### ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION

To youth, recognition is a symbol of accomplishment, achievement, public appreciation and praise. It should come as a result of real effort on the part of the club members. We should use it to bring about desirable growth and development. Day-by-day recognition often helps stimulate.

*Recognition can be given by:*

A pat on the back  
Telephone calls  
Letters  
A chance to preside  
Appearing on adult programs  
Leadership responsibilities  
Helping to plan  
Achievement awards  
Publicity  
Pins  
Ribbons  
Certificates  
Medals  
Scholarships  
Gifts  
Trips

The eyes of 4-H club members should be focused on their project, club activities, and helping members of their club — not on recognition awards. The greatest awards come from service to others and personal achievement and growth, rather than from trying to “out do” other members of the club.

# Home Visit Checklist

## Shelter and Premises

YES

NO

1. If a stable is used, is it well lighted and ventilated and free from drafts?.....
2. Is stable large enough?.....
3. Do ceilings provide at least 8 feet of headroom?.....
4. Does horse have regular access to a corral or pasture with a good fence?.....
5. Are the stall, corral, and pasture free from loose or protruding boards, loose nails, tin cans, broken glass, wire, and other objects that can injure horse?.....

_____	_____
_____	_____
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_____	_____
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## Feed and Water

YES

NO

1. Is member feeding horse at regular times each day?.....
2. Does condition of animal indicate proper balance of feed?.....
3. Is grain free from mold and stored in a dry, clean place?.....
4. Is the door to the feedstore room securely fastened so that the horse cannot break in and overeat?.....
5. Is the hay of good quality and free from mold?.....
6. Are feed boxes and hay rack set at convenient height for horse?.....
7. Does horse readily clean up his grain within half an hour?.....
8. Does the horse have access to green grass during the season if available?.....
9. Have salt and minerals been provided?.....

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## Care of Horse

YES

NO

1. Does condition of hair indicate that the horse has been groomed regularly?.....
2. Does member have adequate groom equipment? Curry comb, coarse brush, fine brush, hoof hook, sponge, and cloths?.....
3. Are first-aid materials adequate for treating cuts and injuries and kept in a convenient place?.....
4. Are the horse's feet cleaned out regularly?.....
5. If the horse is shod, are shoes in good condition? Are feet and pasterns in a healthy condition? Are walls of hoof tough, free from cracks, and properly trimmed?.....
6. Is the horse free from lice, mange, ringworm, and other skin disorders?.....
7. Does the horse show any signs of a heavy internal parasite infestation?.....
8. Is there any indication of sore back or sore mouth?.....
9. Does the club member understand and practice warming up and cooling off the horse when it is ridden?.....

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## Care of Riding Equipment

YES

NO

1. Does the member have adequate material for cleaning and preserving his equipment? Saddle soap, neat's-foot oil, sponge, and cloths?.....
2. Is leather cleaned regularly and kept in good condition?.....
3. Are metal parts free of corrosion?.....
4. Is blanket and/or saddle pad clean and dry?.....
5. Is equipment properly adjusted, free from worn parts, and hung in dry place?.....

_____	_____
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## **Additional Information**

### **Show**

Many members and parents are interested in showing and 4-H shows are designed for local, county, district, state, and regional competition. Showing is important but should not be over emphasized. Emphasis should be placed on fitting and showmanship, equitation, stable management, fun, and sportsmanship. Teen leaders can be used to good advantage in the planning and operation of their events. Members should learn the appropriate show techniques including rules, conduct, stable management, tack, and attire.

Interested top members should be encouraged to continue their interest in showing in open and recognized shows. Members should learn to appreciate the fact that judging is in part at least is "One person's opinion on one given set of horses on one given day."

Shows should be designed for all types of horses and ponies and generally in accordance with the rules of the American Horse Shows Association and the Virginia Horse Shows Association. Leaders should have access to the association rule books including breed association rule books and acquaint members with the general rules and class specifications. The district shows and many local 4-H shows use the State 4-H Horse Show Catalogue for rules and class descriptions. Extension agents can provide leaders with the catalogue and 4-H entry form, and eligibility card. All project animals to be shown must have the eligibility card with measurement. Shows should select qualified judges for specific divisions and instruct judges to give oral reasons as feasible. Some project groups sponsor shows for fund raising for community service projects, trips, awards, etc. Many feed companies can provide show kits (signs, numbers, show record sheets, judges cards, etc.). The AHSA rule book lists many national organization's useful pamphlets including "How To Operate A Horse Show" and movies. Outstanding 4-H horse judges should be encouraged to judge along with recognized judges, judge small or local shows and aim for a service or part-time career as a recognized judge. Local shows should also provide classes for green and/or new members such as "Never Won A Ribbon," "Novice," "Walk-Trot," etc.

### **Accumulated Achievement Records**

Many older members should be encouraged to enter the accumulated achievement record book contest in local, county, district, and state competition. State winners are eligible for trips, awards, and national competition.

## **Other Events**

Members will have the opportunity to participate in many events at local, county, district, and state levels. These educational events include demonstrations, horse bowl, achievement records, judging, competitive riding, packing and camping, and a variety of other programs such as clinics, camps, breed related programs, etc.

## **Leader Organizations and the Future**

Horse project leaders should be active in the overall 4-H and 4-H leader programs at the local, district, and state levels. Many Extension units have leader organizations and district organizations are also available for overall 4-H and for the horse project. The 4-H horse program is an important and sizeable part of 4-H and the overall horse industry. Leaders and members should be involved as feasible with area and state horse organizations and programs. The Virginia horse industry is an important agricultural industry involving 70,000 owners; 100,000 horses; and a one hundred million dollar cash flow in the state each year. The industry plays an important role in recreation, physical fitness, and as a spectator sport. Leaders should assist with the development of the industry and can do a lot of good developing riding areas and youth programs. The 4-H horse project members will want to consider career opportunities in the equine and agricultural industries. Youth and Extension appreciate the hard work of dedicated leaders which forms the main thrust for youth and leadership development.

## **Public Media and Communication**

Leaders and members should utilize all of the media (TV, radio, magazines, and newspapers) for instruction and publicity. Activity plans and results should be reported on a regular basis. All members should be encouraged to become good public relations representatives for 4-H, youth, and the horse industry. Letters of appreciation to visiting instructors, donors, etc., should be encouraged on a regular basis.

Leaders should stay in regular contact with their Extension agents and keep members informed about upcoming programs and events, local, district and state. Any questions about programs should be cleared with the Extension Agent prior to finalized action by local groups.

## Project Activity Chairperson

Many extension units may establish one or more leaders to serve as a unit-wide resource person and coordinator of educational activities for one or more project areas including horses. This approach has a lot of potential in facilitating the flow of material and information. Virginia also has an active state 4-H Horse Advisory Committee composed of leaders, horsemen, and Extension personnel. Leaders should utilize the resources and communications of the chairperson and the state committee.

## Hippology

Hippology is another learning activity. Hippology is considered as a judging event and members must meet the eligibility requirements for judging. Emphasis should be on reading, study, learning, and fun. A state contest is held for senior teams. Each county or unit will be eligible to enter all senior 4-H members that are qualified by participation at the unit level. Extension agents can provide the official contest rules. The reference for the senior contest is *The Horse*, by Evans, Borton, Hintz, and Van Vleck (W. H. Freeman & Co. Publishers).

*Credit:* Several sections of this publication have been adapted from the USDA 4-H Horse Project Leader's Guides, Virginia 4-H Projects and Activities and Leader's Guides from other states. Virginia's original publication was written by A.N. Huff, Retired Extension Animal Scientist, Horses, Virginia Tech.