



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

4-H Horse Project



The purpose of the 4-H Horse Project is to help youth learn how to properly care for and enjoy your horse while developing Life Skills. Through the 4-H Horse Project, youth can increase their knowledge and improve their horsemanship skills by learning basic safety and handling principles. As a member in the 4-H Horse Project, you will learn about your own horse, other horse breeds, safety, body colors and markings as well as health and care. Youth will also learn about facilities, grooming and training.

Starting Out

Beginner

- Learn the requirements of the 4-H Horse program
- Learn about horses
- Tips for choosing the appropriate horse
- How to identify the parts of a horse
- Identify breeds of horses
- Identify body colors and markings
- Learn parts of the hoof
- Learn about blemishes and unsoundness
- Learn about digestion
- Learn feeding tips
- Learn vital signs
- Learn about facilities
- Learn about grooming
- Learn about saddling and bridling
- 4-H Advancement levels program

Learning More

Intermediate

- Characteristics and uses of various breeds
- Definitions and locations of blemishes, lameness and unsoundness
- Types of nutrients and value of them
- Basic requirements of a good pasture
- Common health problems, their symptoms, cause and treatment
- Gain knowledge of sound management practices
- Develop sportsmanship
- Develop public speaking skills
- Approaching and handling the horse
- 4-H Advancement levels program

Exploring Depth

Advanced

- How to deal with current issues relating to raising a horse
- Gain leadership skills by helping others learn about horse
- Explore career opportunities in the horse industry
- Safety when handling horses
- Fire Safety
- Housing and fencing
- Learn about internal and external parasites
- Learn about diseases: causes, symptoms and treatment
- 4-H Advancement levels program

Resources and Links

- 4-H Horse Project Manual(MA1500E)
- Colorado State 4-H Horse Rule Book
- 4-H Horse E-records
- Horse e-Record Guide
- CSU Extension 4-H Website
- The Horse (2nd edition)
- United States Equestrian Federation Rulebook
- 4-H Horse Levels Testing Guides
- Competitive Trail Riding Resource
- 4-H Horse Rule Book
- 4-H Horse Show Resources
- Colorado State Fair



A horse eats about two percent of its body weight a day for maintenance.