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4-H Light Horse Project

Leaders' Guide



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN



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YOUTH RIDES FORWARD

Thousands of additional young people each year are becoming interested in horses and ponies. They are discovering the satisfaction and pleasure that outdoor activities can bring them. Whether it is a young foal to be raised and trained, or an older horse already partially schooled, each animal presents a challenge to the boy or girl, which makes it an interesting project. It is a project well suited to 4-H Club work. It provides an opportunity for club members to learn by doing, to acquire habits of healthful living, to participate in group activities and to obtain information and direction in the use of leisure time.

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 his 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. It is the touch of the hands on the reins which telegraphs the rider's wish to his mount.

"My Health to better living."--Out-of-door activities affect every nerve, muscle, and organ of the body in a healthful way.

"For my club, my community, and my country."--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."

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the horse program is to help 4-H Club boys and girls achieve the following:

1. Development of leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and other desirable traits of character.
2. Experience the pride and responsibility of owning a horse or pony and receive training in its care, feeding, management and related costs.
3. Appreciation of horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
4. Skill in horsemanship, and patience and understanding in handling horses and ponies.

5. Knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injuries to themselves, others, and their mounts.
6. Greater love for animals and a humane attitude towards them.
7. Preparation for citizenship responsibilities by working together in groups and supporting community horse projects and activities.

LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY

The Challenge for Local Leaders

The responsibility of the local leader is both a challenge and an opportunity. It is a key position in the whole 4-H Club program. If you enjoy working with young people and like horses, you will find that the time spent working with the 4-H horse program is a most satisfying experience. You are the club member's friend who is close by when the boy or girl wants advice and help.

Through your efforts, club members will learn many things which will better prepare them to assume places of leadership in their community. Your activities will be varied as you help the members to plan their own programs; attend their club meetings; supervise their training; visit their homes to see how they are progressing; advise them on the care of their animal; and accompany them on trail rides and to events outside the community.

The successful leader is the person who has the confidence of the group; keeps ahead of them yet seeming always with them; understands their viewpoint; is tolerant, patient, and sympathetic in working with them; recognizes work well done in such a way that they will be encouraged to do even better; makes friendly suggestions rather than 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. An opportunity to inspire the club members to emulate them in developing those 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. There are many routine jobs that they can do.

The Youth You Lead

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

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 their activities to best fit their needs and in increasing the pleasure and satisfaction they will derive from their 4-H Club experience.

The Extension Workers' Part

In nearly every county there are one or more county extension agents. The county extension staff, under the general direction of the State extension office, 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. County extension agents also cooperate with local 4-H horse clubs 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, he can make suggestions for improvement of the program.

Attend 4-H council meetings and county extension meetings.

ORGANIZING THE 4-H CLUB

Types of Organizations

The 4-H Club horse program can be adapted to many types of club organization. Leaders will want to consider the pattern being followed in the county and State, and the situation in their community. The following suggestions indicate different ways of organizing the horse program. Leaders and extension agents will want to consider these in their planning:

1. The community 4-H Club is one in which members enroll in a variety of projects. This necessitates giving project instructions along a number of lines during the year. Therefore, the time devoted to one project in regular meetings may be limited. Many such clubs have special leaders for the different projects. For example, a leader working with members enrolled in the horse program may hold special training meetings.
2. Local 4-H horse clubs are organized much the same as the community club except that all members are enrolled in the horse project.



Fig. 1. 4-H pals in the saddle

3. County wide project groups--4-H members participating in the horse project meet together at a convenient location in the county. Regular meetings are held with a plan of work built around instruction on horses and riding. This approach may be used to supplement either of the local club plans discussed earlier.

How To Get the Job Done

Before you as a leader will be ready to actually organize a club, you may need to do some advance groundwork. The response you get from the parents and prospective club members will help in making the decision as to the

type of organization which best fits your situation. Boys and girls should have the full support and permission of their parents before they enroll in a horse project. People must like horses and understand that a horse enterprise may be costly. Usually no profit may be expected. Furthermore there is some danger of injury to youth from spirited horses and others which are carelessly handled. Here are some tips to help you get started:

1. Talk to the parents, boys and girls and others in the community about 4-H Club work and the horse program.
2. Visit the homes of prospective members who either now have horses or ponies or have indicated interest in buying one.
3. Talk with the local newspaper editor, officers of community clubs, service clubs and other groups that can help support and publicize the program.
4. Report to your county extension agents on the prospects for participation in horse projects. Check with them regarding a suitable time and place for holding a meeting of prospective members and their parents.
5. Make arrangements for the meeting and notify all families in the community of the time and place. This can be done through the newspaper and/or circular letter. Send special personal invitations to the prospective members and their parents.
6. Arrange to have one of the county extension agents present at the meeting to explain the 4-H program, membership and project requirements and procedures for organizing the club or group.
7. A good plan is to have an older boy or girl who has had leadership experience in club work serve as temporary chairman until the group has elected their permanent officers. As a leader, it is your job to teach the officers to conduct business-like meetings. You will need to check with each officer to see that he knows his responsibilities.

PROJECT SUPERVISION

Selecting the Horse

Some of the boys and girls will already own a horse or pony at the time they join the 4-H Club. The local leader should be prepared when called upon to counsel with the parents and club members as to the type of mount which would best meet the individual member's needs. Choosing the right horse will add greatly to the satisfaction and pleasure of the member, and reduce the chance for disappointment.

Young boys or girls should not select horses that are too large or head-strong for them to handle. Older well-trained horses with good dispositions are safer for beginners. Members who have gained experience will often want to start with a weanling colt and develop and train their own mount.

The club member who has pasture and other feed available may wish to have a mare and raise foals. This type of project has the advantage of providing a monetary return and the opportunity for gaining experience in training young

horses for sale. In selecting a mare for breeding, it is advisable to choose a breed in demand locally, and start with a young mare unless an older mare that has foaled regularly is available.

Points which should be considered in selecting the kind of mount include:

Age, weight, degree of experience and skill of the boy or girl; facilities available for keeping the mount; price the purchaser can afford; individual preference regarding type, quality, and gaits; and plans for using the horse.

Good type saddle horses are found in all light breeds. The most popular breeds include the Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse, Arab, Morgan, American Saddle Horse, Tennessee Walking Horse, Palomino, and Appaloosa. It is not necessary to buy a purebred horse to benefit from a 4-H horse project. A sound well-mannered healthy horse of good riding conformation is preferred, regardless of breeding.

Whether light horses are purebred or of mixed breeding, they can usually be classified as to the purpose for which they are best suited. The following classification may be used as a practical guide by 4-H Club members in considering the type of mount to select:

1. Stock Horse. --A short-coupled, deep-bodied, and well-muscled horse developed for work under the saddle on cattle farms and western ranches. They are sure footed, agile, and hardy. Their popularity has now spread to all parts of the country. Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse, Arab, or Morgan breeding usually predominates in horses of this type. Their gaits are the walk, jog or fast trot, canter or gallop.
2. Park Hack. --These horses are purebred or half-blood American Saddle Horses bred largely for show and exhibition riding. They possess beauty and style with smart action in either 3 or 5 gaits.
3. Three-Gaited Pleasure Horse. --Horses of this type are found in all of the light breeds. They are popular for pleasure riding at the walk, trot, and canter. Three-gaited pleasure horses usually are longer coupled than the stock horse and lack the extreme style and action of the park hack.
4. Walking Horse. --These horses were originally developed for plantation riding. They are characterized by an easy running walk. Tennessee Walking Horse breeding usually predominates, although some walking horses carry considerable blood of some of the other breeds.
5. Hunter. --A hunter is a large, clean-cut type of horse bred for cross country riding and jumping. They usually are purebred or grade Thoroughbreds selected for stamina, speed, and surefootedness.
6. Ponies. --Ponies are small horses which are under 14.2 hands in height at maturity. Most common are the miniature Shetland and the medium size Welsh pony. These two breeds are often crossed with Arabs, Morgans, and other breeds of light horses to produce larger, more spirited ponies for experienced teenagers. Hackney ponies are noted for their high trotting action for light carriage use.

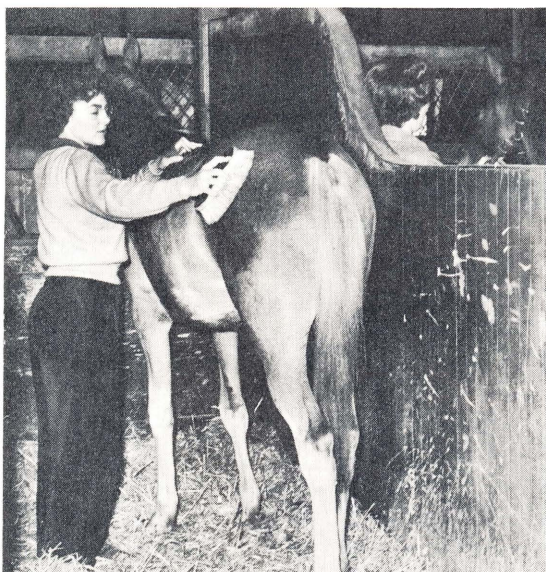


Fig. 2. Care of animals requires attention to details.

Care, Feeding, and Management

Ownership and complete management is characteristic of all 4-H projects. The 4-H horse project recommends ownership of a horse or pony. It carries with it the responsibility for the health and well-being of the animal. An essential part of the club members' training is the early development of regular habits in the feeding and care of their mounts. Beginners in particular will usually be inexperienced in this subject. Leaders can help the boys and girls get off to a good start by visiting them as soon as possible after the projects have begun. The following checklist covers some of the more important principles of good horse husbandry:

1. Shelter and Premises.

: Yes : No :

- Is stable well lighted and ventilated, and free from drafts? -----
- Is stall large enough? Box stalls should be at least 10 by 10 feet and tie stalls $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 feet wide and 8 to 9 feet long, depending on the size of the horse ---
- Do ceilings provide at least 8 feet head room? -----
- Does the horse have regular access to a paddock or pasture with a good fence? -----
- Is stall and corral or paddock free from loose or protruding boards, loose nails, tin cans, bottles or broken glass, wire, sharp stones, and other objects which can injure the horse? -----

2. Feed and Water.

- Is member practicing regularity in times of feeding each day? -----
- Does condition of animal and manure indicate proper balance of feed? -----
- Is grain free from mold and stored in a dry clean place? ---
- Is the door to the feed storage room securely fastened so that the horse can't break in and overeat? -----
- Is hay of good quality and free from mold? -----
- Are feed boxes and hay rack set at convenient height for the horse? -----
- Does the horse readily clean up his grain within half an hour? -----

: Yes : No :

Does the horse have access to green grass during the
available season? -----
Is clean, fresh water available regularly?-----
Have salt and minerals been provided? -----

3. Care of Horse.

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

4. Care of Riding Equipment.

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

Keeping Records

Keeping accurate and complete records is important in the over-all development of the 4-H Club member. Keeping records stimulates members to analyze results, strive for self-improvement, and provides training which will help them later in life. Records submitted by 4-H members provide some of the information needed in selecting individuals to receive recognition and such awards as scholarships and educational trips.

Recordkeeping is easier for some than others. Guidance and encouragement from the leader and parents will help boys and girls take pride in keeping accurate and neat records which are a true reflection of their 4-H Club accomplishments. The county extension agents will acquaint leaders and club members with the types of records which are to be used for the 4-H horse project and will provide the necessary forms.

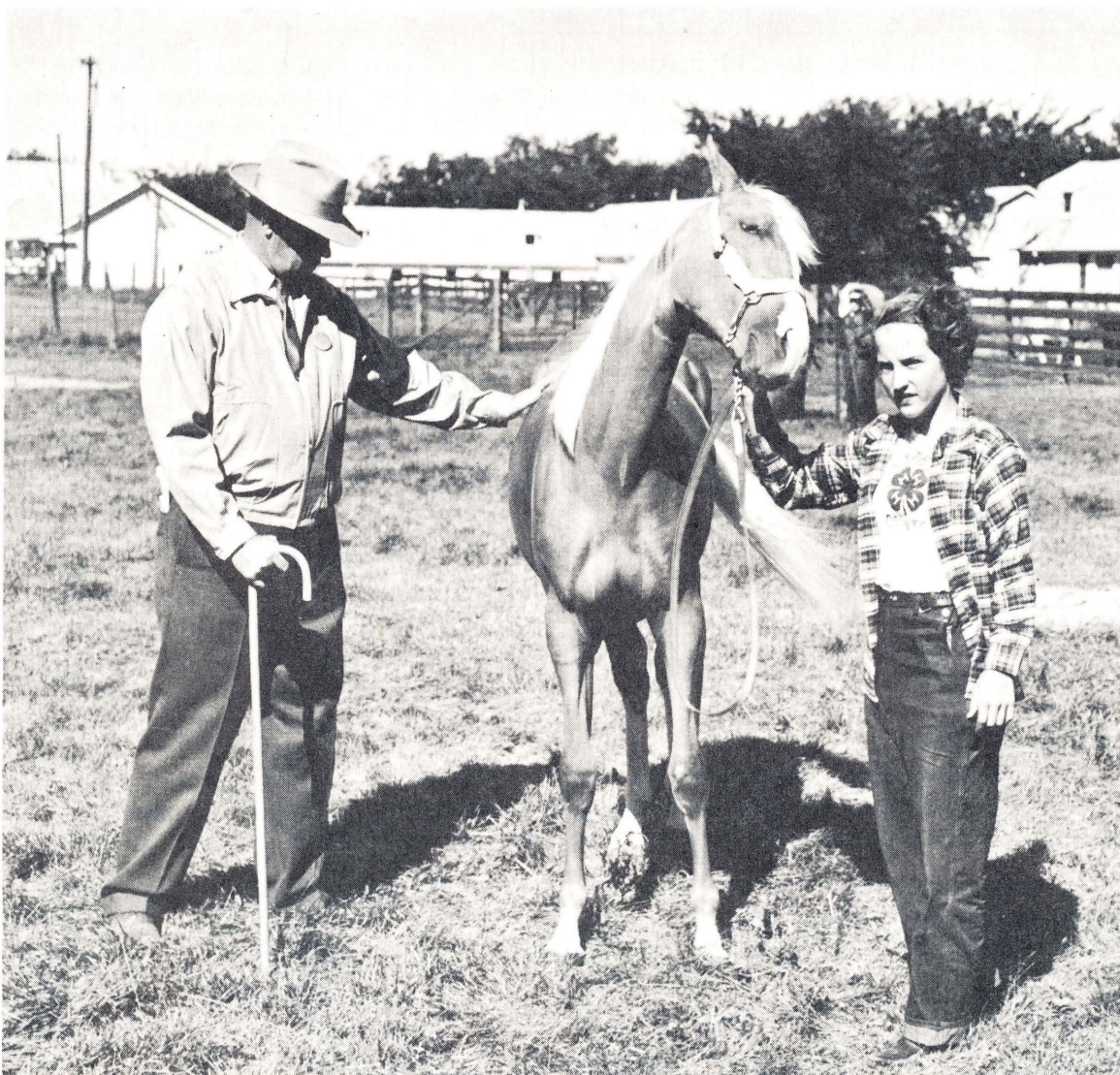


Fig. 3. Leader gives a 4-H member instruction on showing at halter.

TEACHING SUGGESTIONS

Methods and Teaching Material

As a 4-H Club leader you are also a teacher of boys and girls. The good teacher strives to hold the interest and cooperation of the pupils. One effective means of accomplishing this is to vary the method of presenting the subjects as often as is practical. A wide range of variation in presentation is possible in teaching horse husbandry and horsemanship. Lectures, blackboard talks, movies, slides, demonstrations, judging contests, practice sessions, quiz contests, discussion periods, tours, and trail rides can all contribute to the learning process. Older and experienced 4-H Club members and other horsemen can help with the teaching.

Subject-Matter Suggestions for Club Meetings

Although a large part of instruction time will be spent outdoors with the horses, you may want to include subject matter as part of the program at regular 4-H Club meetings. Some of the subjects that can be taught during indoor sessions are:

- Breeds of horses and their uses.
- Parts of a horse.
- Parts of riding horse equipment.
- Care of equipment.
- Feeds and feeding.
- Horse psychology.
- Safety precautions.
- First aid.
- Horse health.
- Unsoundnesses, blemishes, and their locations.
- Riding courtesies.
- Making an adjustable rope halter for leading and showing.
- Recordkeeping.
- Principles of judging.
- Riding horse gaits (movie or blackboard talk).
- Horse show classifications and rules.

Demonstrations

A demonstration is showing by doing. The demonstration method of teaching is particularly applicable in training horsemanship. Much of the subject matter in this program can only be taught by demonstrations followed by super-



Fig. 4. "Learning together the demonstration way" on how to care for a new-born colt.

vised practice sessions. The instructor who skillfully conducts his demonstrations quickly gains the confidence of his pupils.

As the club members master each phase of their training, wise leaders provide them the opportunity to conduct demonstrations themselves. By so doing, the member develops poise, initiative, and the ability to impart knowledge to others. He can then assist the leader in training less experienced members. Some of the subjects can be adapted for use as demonstrations in contests at county and State achievement meetings.

Here are some suggestions for demonstrations:

Approaching, haltering, and leading a horse.
Saddling, bridling, and adjustment of stirrups.
Mounting and dismounting, proper seat and posture of rider.
Use of aids in controlling the horse--voice, hands, legs, position of body.
The different gaits and their influence on posture of rider.
Changing leads.
Teaching a colt to lead.
Picking up and cleaning the horses' feet.
Hoof trimming.
Properly shoeing the horse.
The longe line and its use.
Showing at the halter.
Clipping and grooming.
Braiding mane, foretop, and tail.
Care of equipment.
Repairing equipment, sewing, and riveting.
Judging horses.
Determining age by the horses' teeth.
Detecting unsoundness and blemishes.
Teaching the horse to jump.
Safe hauling, loading, and unloading of horses.

Safety Precautions

To disregard simple safety rules in handling horses can result in serious mishaps. A knowledge of safe riding is imperative in the training of riders. Here are some basic rules for safety which the leader will need to stress continuously in order that the members will get in the habit of practicing them at all times:

1. Never approach a horse directly from the rear. Even in single stalls it is possible to approach from an oblique angle at the rear.
2. Always speak to a horse before approaching or touching him. Most horses are likely to jump and may kick when startled.
3. If the horse hangs back on the end of the rope, lead him a few steps forward before touching him with your hand.
4. Keep your head in the clear when bridling the horse. He may throw his head or strike to avoid the bridle. Avoid bridling a nervous animal in close quarters.
5. Walk beside the horse when leading, not ahead or behind him. Always turn the horse to the right, and walk around him.

6. Use a long lead strap and both hands when leading. If the horse rears up, release hand nearest to halter so you can stay on the ground.
7. The horse is stronger than you, so don't try to outpull him. He will usually respond to a quick snap on the lead strp or rope.
8. Never wrap lead strap, halter shank, or reins around your hand, wrist, or body.
9. Bridle reins, stirrup leathers, and cinch straps should be kept in the best possible condition, as your safety is dependent on these straps. Replace any strap when it begins to show signs of wear.
10. Stand with your feet well back in the clear and reach forward when saddling the mount.
11. Never mount the horse in a barn, near fences, trees, or overhanging projections. Sidestepping mounts have injured riders who failed to take these precautions.
12. Adjust saddle carefully and cinch tight enough so it will not turn when mounting. Soon after starting the ride, dismount and again tighten the saddle girth. Horses often swell up when first saddled and failure to tighten girths later can result in serious accidents.
13. If your horse is frightened by an obstacle, dismount and lead him by it.
14. Keep your horse under control and maintain a secure seat at all times. Horses are easily frightened by unusual objects and noises. Anticipate these and steady your horse.
15. When a horse is frightened and attempts to run, turn him in a circle and tighten the circle until he stops.
16. When riding in groups, do not ride too close to the horse in front of you, and be alert for overhead tree branches.
17. Hold your mount to a walk when going up or down hill.
18. Reduce speed when riding rough ground or in sand, mud, ice, or snow, where there is danger of the mount falling or slipping.
19. Avoid paved roads. Slow your mount to a walk when crossing such roads. If he is a spirited or young horse, dismount and lead him across.
20. Know your horse, his temperament and reactions. Control your temper at all times but let him know that you are his firm and kind master.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Special events and activities stimulate and maintain interest among the individual club members. They are an effective teaching tool. They provide opportunities for boys and girls to gain confidence in themselves and develop good sportsmanship by working and playing with others in the group. In order to develop leadership among members, they should participate in the planning and execution of all programs. Many interesting and varied activities are possible in the horse program. The following suggestions should be helpful in planning special events and activities:

1. Trail Rides. --Cross country rides break the monotony of riding class instruction periods. Accompanied by a competent leader, the members learn to practice safety precautions, adjustment of equipment, road courtesy, and how to ride long distances without causing their mounts to become overheated or unduly fatigued.
2. Overnight Camps. --Field trips on horseback to unspoiled natural areas suitable for outdoor camping is a popular form of group activity. Members learn to take care of themselves and their mounts in the field. Suggestions for the trip:
 - a. The leader should be familiar with the route, know the spots where storm shelter is available in case of emergency, and visit the camping site in advance to insure that feed and water will be available.
 - b. Members should be familiar with camping techniques and precautions before making the trip.
 - c. Parents should assume responsibility for the conduct of the members and any accidents that may occur. It is too much to ask a leader or county agent to assume such responsibility.
 - d. Check horses, equipment, food, clothing, and first aid kits before starting. A checklist of minimum camping supplies needed for health and comfort should be prepared.
 - e. Insure that every horse has hobbles or is broken to a stake rope if fenced pastures are not available at overnight stops. Horses may get homesick and stray off.
 - f. Have all necessary permits or licenses needed to allow you to do what you plan.
 - g. Check each stopping point before leaving to insure that the area has been policed, fires are out, and no personal property has been left behind.
 - h. Make periodic checks of horses for loose shoes and injuries, and riding equipment for adjustment.
 - i. Club members should keep a financial statement of the cost of the trip.
3. Tours. --There are a number of tours the leader can arrange that may help members with their projects by letting them see how others do things.

Project tours provide an opportunity for the group to visit all of the members' projects and compare their work. Members can check the management practices of their fellow members and give them a rating score. Each member is more likely to keep his project and record book in tiptop shape if he knows that he may have visitors. It will give him a feeling of pride and an impetus to do better work.

Other types of tours might include trips to horse breeding farms and ranches, horse shows and fairs, rodeos, and experiment stations.

Members can get more out of the tours if they are urged to make notes on what they see, take their cameras along and follow the tours with a discussion on what they have learned.

4. Mounted Patrol. --Some clubs may want to organize a team and practice some of the exhibition mounted drill movements. Good mounted patrols are in demand for performances at fairs, parades, and other special events.



Fig. 5. A drill team--the result of good training and teamwork.

5. Leathercraft. --Learning the art of working with leather is an interesting and useful project which some clubs engage in during the winter months when outdoor activities are limited. It is a skill that horse project members can use to advantage.
6. Games for Riders. --
 - a. Musical Chairs. --Chairs, one less than riders, are placed in ring facing outward. Contestants ride in circle outside ring of chairs. Music or whistle is used for signals. When music stops or whistle blows, contestants dismount and attempt to sit in a chair retaining hold of the horse's reins. Contestant not seated is eliminated and one chair removed. This is repeated until one chair remains. Winner is last contestant seated.
 - b. Relay Races. --There are many variations of these events. Contestants are divided into teams. Any number can be used on a team provided it is a multiple of two. Each team is divided in half, with

one-half at each end of a course 50 yards long. The first rider is handed an object, gallops across the course and hands it to the next team member who returns to the original point and gives it to the third, and so on. Teams are timed to select winner.

- c. Potato Race. --Each contestant spears a potato, rides 50 yards, puts it into a bucket, and returns. This is repeated until 5 potatoes are in the bucket. Many variations are possible by substituting an egg in a spoon, or glass of water.
- d. Suitcase Race. --Each rider receives a light suitcase with a shirt enclosed, gallops 50 yards, dismounts, opens suitcase, puts on and buttons shirt, mounts, and returns to starting point.
- e. Cake Eating Race. --A piece of cake is suspended on a string for each contestant at far end of course. Riders gallop 50 yards, eat cake off string, and return. Touching cake with hands disqualifies contestant.
- f. Spearing Rings. --Rings 2 inches in diameter are suspended with strings 100 yards from starting line. Riders gallop from starting line and try to spear ring with bamboo pole without changing gait. Contestants are alternated. Best out of five tries is winner.
- g. Stake Race. --Lines of stakes are driven in the ground for each contestant. Drive just deep enough so they won't fall over. Three-foot smooth stakes (without splinters) about broom handle size are ideal. Contestants ride to farthest stake, pull it up without dismounting, carry it back to starting point, drop it in a box, and repeat until all stakes are in the box.
- h. Mounted Square Dance. --Participants are divided into couples. Music can be provided by a record player and amplifier. A caller directs the riders through many folk dance movements which can be done on horseback.

4-H Horse Shows

The horse show is the high spot of the year for the club members. They have been faithfully working with their animals and perfecting their horsemanship for months. This is their chance to find out how well they have succeeded. Friendly rivalry at a club show is an excellent way to develop good sportsmanship. It helps stimulate and maintain the members' interest in the project. It also provides an opportunity for the general public to see what is being accomplished in 4-H Club work.

It is best not to put too much emphasis on prizes won at shows. Ribbons, trophies, equipment, and merchandise are appropriate prizes. The awards are only one measurement of accomplishment. What the member has learned is the most important thing and it is difficult to judge. The local leaders and parents are in the best position to know what the club member has accomplished.

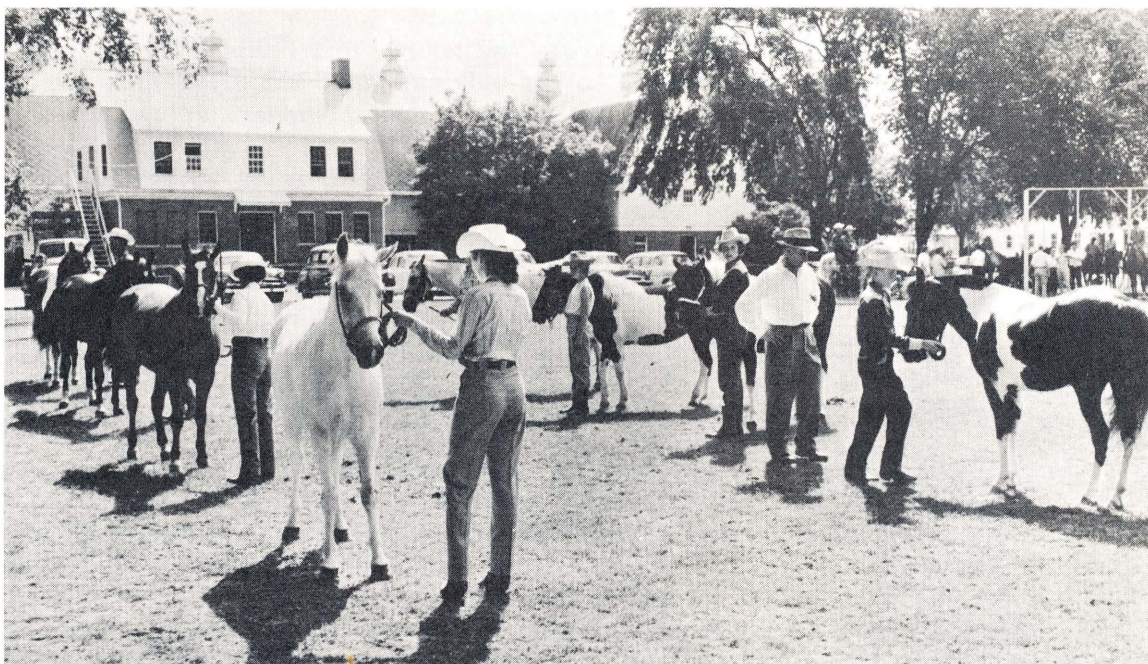


Fig. 6. What is so rewarding as a job well done?

You will want to check with your county extension agents as to the type of show which will best fit your local needs. The number of members participating and degree of experience will need to be considered in the decision.

You may find it advisable to hold a roundup the first year and limit requirements to showing at the halter and the simpler mounted movements. Emphasis could be placed on fitting and grooming. As experience increases you will want to add more classes and develop it into a more complete show.

If there are other horse clubs in the county, your club may have the opportunity of participating in a county horse show. Frequently the county show is held in connection with the county fair. Michigan has many counties in the 4-H horse program and the winners in the various counties have an opportunity to compete at the State 4-H Club Show held in East Lansing.

Suggestions for Leaders Conducting 4-H Horse Shows

1. General Rules. --Consult with your extension agents regarding 4-H horse show rules which have been set up for Michigan. If no standard has been established, your local show committee will have to decide on the rules. The Rule Book of the American Horse Shows Association will be very helpful. If the entries are of one breed, you will find it helpful to refer to the show rules as prepared by that breed association. Rules should be clearly stated in the program to avoid complaints and confusion.
2. Entries. --Entry blanks should list the name, color, sex, age and height of the horse, classes entered, name and address of exhibitor, and name of owner if the animal is not owned by club member.

Determine number of entries necessary to fill a class so that the class can be canceled if too few horses are entered. Three entries is the usual minimum.

3. Classes. --It is not the purpose of this manual to prepare a list of classes for 4-H horse shows. These shows are considered as amateur rather than professional, therefore the classes should be set up to fit local conditions and needs which vary greatly in the different areas. Consult your extension agents regarding the classifications which have been recommended for 4-H shows in your State. You will also find the American Horse Shows Association Rule Book helpful in setting up requirements for the various classes. The following principles might be considered in preparing class lists:
 - a. Separate classes are offered for exhibitors in different age groups. Many shows divide into "Juniors," under 14 years of age and "Seniors," 14 years and over. Some divide on basis of 1st, 2d, and 3d year club members.
 - b. Classes for "Fitting and Showmanship" are popular. Horses are shown on the halter. Contestants are required to groom and show their animals without assistance from other persons.
 - c. Classes under saddle may be divided by types of horses such as ponies, stock horses, 3-gaited pleasure horses, 5-gaited road hacks, and hunters.
 - d. Horsemanship classes may be divided according to style of riding and type of saddle, for example; western stock seat, English saddle,
 - e. Some clubs which emphasize mare and foal projects provide separate classes for yearlings on the halter, 2-year olds under saddle, and 3-year olds under saddle.
 - f. The Michigan Trail Class requires performance over and through obstacles. Contestants are required to show their horses at a walk, trot and lope (always on the correct lead) on a reasonably loose rein.
 - g. Novelty classes may be added if desired. Skill and age of participants and ability of mounts should be considered in selecting added events. Examples of other events are the horseback games described previously, and classes for jumping, trick horses, pole bending, versatility, and neck reining.
4. Time Schedule. --Classes ordinarily require 20 to 30 minutes to run off. If classes are large, allot extra time. Keep the show moving smoothly and rapidly to hold the attention of the audience.
5. Class Schedule. --Keep both exhibitors and spectators in mind. Maintain spectator interest by varying the type of classes. Alternate age classes

so that exhibitors won't have to show in consecutive classes. Fitting and showmanship classes should be so scheduled that entries are not sweat marked from previous performance classes.

6. Judging. --In keeping with the purpose of 4-H work to train boys and girls and realizing that the quality of mount varies with the financial resources of their parents, it is suggested that classes shown under the saddle be judged on manner, suitability and performance with minimum emphasis on conformation.

7. Committees. --A smooth-running show is the result of careful planning and delegation of responsibilities to capable and reliable individuals. You will need to appoint committees or individuals to assume definite responsibilities. Here are some suggestions:

| | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Publicity. | Premium list and program. |
| Entries. | Grounds and facilities. |
| Finance. | Trophies and ribbons. |
| Showring. | |

8. Officials. --

| | | |
|-------------|------------|---------------|
| Manager. | Announcer. | Gateman. |
| Secretary. | Steward. | Veterinarian. |
| Ringmaster. | Judges. | Farrier. |

9. Work Details. --

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Stall assignment. | Program sale. |
| Food concessions. | Decorations. |
| Gate and ticket sale. | Clean up. |
| Ring maintenance. | |

10. Equipment. --

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Hurdles and obstacles. | Truck for hauling equipment. |
| Exhibition numbers. | Water cart and scraper. |
| Stopwatch. | Judges' table and folding chairs. |
| Measuring stick. | Record player or band. |
| Judges' cards. | Public address system with |
| Officials' stand. | extra microphone. |

11. Protection. --

Police and fire protection.
Employer's and public liability insurance.
First aid and ambulance.

ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION

Awards

The 4-H leader will find that the wise use of recognition will inspire boys and girls to strive for greater achievement. It will help them receive a satisfying experience in 4-H work. The spirit of competition is natural for young people. It is a stimulus which can be used effectively in development of character and skills. It can also defeat its purpose if permitted to get out-of-hand.

The wise leader will help club members focus their attention on their project work, club activities, and sharing experiences with and helping other members instead of looking on recognition awards as their chief goal. He will help them realize that the greatest rewards come from service to others and personal achievement rather than "out-doing" someone else.

The following principles are basic in developing an awards and recognition program:

1. Activities should emphasize the development of boys and girls.
2. Standards should be within reach of the members and yet high enough to challenge them to do their best.
3. Rules of procedure should be fair and clearly stated.
4. Judging must be fair and impartial.
5. It is better to distribute the awards among a number of worthy contestants than to concentrate on 1 or 2 top winners.

Informing the Public

There is something about youth and horses that attracts the public interest. As a leader you will want the public to understand the real purpose of 4-H Club work and the horse program. You can share the story of your club's activities in many ways.

Keep your local newspaper editor informed of progress.

Notify newspapers and radio stations of all special events.

Announcements of events should include the five W's necessary for a good news story--when, where, what, who and why.

Your county extension agent might have a radio or television program on which you and your club members can appear. Participation in civic and service club programs will provide training for the members in public speaking.

Don't overlook the possibility of taking movie shorts of the members in action. They have tremendous human interest appeal for showing on local

television news programs and at many types of meetings. You will also find that you can use movie action scenes to point out to your boys and girls ways they can improve their riding.

Farm magazines are always glad to have good how-to-do-it and achievement stories. The National 4-H Club News wants to have reports of club activities, too.

And remember, as in other areas, that your 4-H public information programs must be in keeping with the overall county programs under the direction of your extension agents.

Your Reward

After the close of the year you will probably take time out to reflect on the results of your work. Winter will have slowed down the many activities of the past months. The record books will have been completed and forwarded to the county extension office. You will be thinking of the year ahead and of new ideas to make it more meaningful.

You probably will have been so busy that you have not thought much about the rewards you have received. As you look back, perhaps your proudest moments were when boys and girls trained by you reaped the rewards of their work. These are the hours when the leader feels the enduring satisfaction of knowing that those he taught have justified his fondest hopes. You have experienced the reward that can't be bought. It comes from the hearts of those whom you have served so well. You have made an investment in the future of America.

SUGGESTED REFERENCES

United States Department of Agriculture Publications

1956 Yearbook of Agriculture, Animal Diseases. \$2.00.

(For sale only from Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.)

Farmers Bulletins:

F- 952, Breeds of Light Horses.

F-1030, Feeding Horses.

F-1368, Breaking and Training Colts.

F-1503, Horse Bots and Their Control.

F-1535, Farm Horseshoeing.

F-1721, Determining the Age of Farm Animals by Their Teeth.

State Extension Services

Several State agricultural extension services have published bulletins and leaflets on light horses and the 4-H Club horse project. Arrangements to secure copies of publications from other States should be made through your State 4-H Club leader.

Other Sources

National Safety Council, 425 No. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.
Leaflet, Safe in the Saddle, by Harold Heldreth.

Booklets available at 25 cents per copy from the Horse and Mule Association of America, Inc., Wayne Dinsmore, Secretary, 407 So. Dearborn St., Chicago 5, Ill.

A Tenderfoot Learns to Ride.
No. 264, Training Riding Horses.
No. 277, Our Equine Friends.
No. 280, Horses and Riders.
No. 298, Western Riding Horses.

Iowa Horse and Mule Association, Des Moines, Iowa.
4-H Light Horses. 25 cents.

Supplemental Reference Books for Leaders

HORSES AND HORSEMANSHIP, M. E. Ensminger, 1956, Interstate Publishers,
19-27 N. Jackson St., Danville, Ill.

YOUR HORSE: HIS SELECTION, STABLING AND CARE, George W. Saunders, 1954,
D. Von Nostrand Co., 120 Alexander St., Princeton, New Jersey.

THE PRACTICAL HORSE KEEPER, George H. Conn, 1950, Orange Judd Publishing
Co., 15 East 26th St., New York 10, N. Y.

THE HORSE, D. J. Kays, 1953, Rinehart and Co., Inc., N. Y. & Toronto.

A MANUAL FOR RIDERS, L. W. Durrell, 1949, Crown Publishers, 419 Fourth Ave.,
New York 16, N. Y.

THE WESTERN HORSE--ITS TYPES AND TRAINING, John A. Gorman, 1949, Inter-
state Publishers, 19-27 N. Jackson St., Danville, Ill.

BETTER RIDING, Benjamin Lewis, 1949, Gossett and Dunlap, Inc., 1107 Broadway,
New York 10, N. Y.

THE MOUNTED DRILL TEAM, John M. Henry, 1954, A. S. Barnes & Co., 232
Madison Ave., New York 16, N. Y.

Movies

AMERICAN HORSE

17 min. sound, color, Selected Films, 345 Walnut, Northfield, Illinois. De-
scribes history, characteristics and uses of light horse breeds.

THE HARNESS HORSE

14 min. sound, color. The United States Trotting Association, 1349 E. Broad
St., Columbus 5, Ohio. Depicts training of a harness horse from foaling until
its first race.

HORSE GAITS

14 min. sound, black and white. Chicago Film Laboratory, Chicago, Ill. The gaits of the horse in slow motion; analyzes speed and quality of performance.

THE HORSE IN NORTH AMERICA

20 min. sound, color, Selected Films, 345 Walnut, Northfield, Illinois. Primitive horses; measuring of the size of horses; development of horse breeding; breeds of horses found in the United States.

HORSESHOEING

19 min. sound, black and white, United World Films, Inc., 1445 Park Ave., New York 29, N. Y. Illustrates step by step process of shoeing; shows correct posture of the hoof and the horse.

HORSES AND BOTS

30 min. silent, black and white--USDA, Washington 25, D. C. Types, life cycles, and control of botflies.

BLUEGRASS

10 min. sound, black and white--Pictorial Films, Inc., 1501 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y. Depicts the training and care of race horses; shows races at Saratoga and Hialeah.

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