

Kentucky 4-H Horse Program

Horse Academy

Level 4



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

**For more information on the
Kentucky 4-H Horse Program go to :**
<https://afs.ca.uky.edu/4h-youth/horse>

**The resources referred to in this workbook can be found in your
County Horse Kit or online. The primary resources are listed in the
back of this workbook.**

**For additional resources check out the Kentucky 4-H Horse
Program Horse Discovery Web site at:**
<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/horsediscovery/>

HorseDiscovery

KY 4-H Horse Program

[Home](#) [Breeds](#) [Forages](#) [Bits](#) [Equipment](#) [Parasites](#) [Horseshoes](#) [Horse Selection](#) [Materials](#) [Certificate](#)

Welcome to Horse Discovery



The Horse Discovery site has the resources you need to complete this short course about horses. There are eight sections in the course: Breeds, Forages, Bits, Equipment, Parasites, Horseshoes, Horse Selection, Materials.

Select a section to begin, and end your session with a short quiz. Before you start

Test Your Knowledge

There are seven sections in this course. Each section ends with a quiz.

[Read more](#)

Resources

- [Kentucky 4H Horse Program](#)
- [HorseQuest Instructional Videos](#)
- [eXtension Horses Resource Area](#)

Level 4

The purpose of the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program Horse Academy is to provide a road map for you to learn key lessons about horse science, horse behavior, and the horse industry.

These are all important components to becoming a well rounded horseman or horsewoman. As you go through this book, complete the assignments and tasks with your certified 4-H Horse Leader and track your progress with your county 4-H Agent. Once you have completed all lessons, activities, and have demonstrated proficiency in the skills, you will be qualified to take the Level Completion Exam. This exam is to be administered by your County Agent. A 70% must be attained for completion of a level. When you complete a level, your agent will notify the State 4-H Horse Program Office for documentation.





Level 4

Lessons

1. Medical terminology and common ailments
2. Reproduction
3. Horse First Aid
4. Performance Judging
5. Pasture Management
6. Cost Calculations
7. Giving Oral Reasons

Activities

1. Footfall Patterns
2. Horse Shoes
3. Farrier Tools
4. Appendicular Skeleton
5. Trailer Safety
6. Industry Issues

Skills

1. Turning a Horse Out
2. Bandaging a Leg
3. Bathing a Horse
4. Ride a canter/lope with a simple lead change
5. Cleaning Tack
6. Taking Temp/Pulse/Respiration Rates

Lesson 1 Medical Terminology and Common Ailments

Know how to communicate to
your vet

KEY POINTS:

- Define terms
- Routes of transmission
- Signs and Symptoms
- Treatment and Prevention
- Discuss what you know



Resource Material: Alberta pp.132-149, The Horse pp. 231-240, 417-439

Topic of discussion: We all hope that our horses will stay happy and healthy, but the reality is that they will probably experience some sort of health issue in their lifetime. Being able to accurately communicate to your veterinarian what the problem is can help your horse recover faster and better receive the treatment they need. Read the resource material and answer the following questions.

Define the following terms: Colic, choke, heaves, laminitis.

What is the difference between: Sign and symptom, contagious and non-contagious, bacterial and viral, aerosol and vector.

Has your horse or one you know ever been sick? Discuss with the group the signs and symptoms, the diagnosis, the treatment, and the long term effect.

Lesson 2 Reproduction

Foals have to come from
somewhere!

KEY POINTS:

Stallion breeding soundness

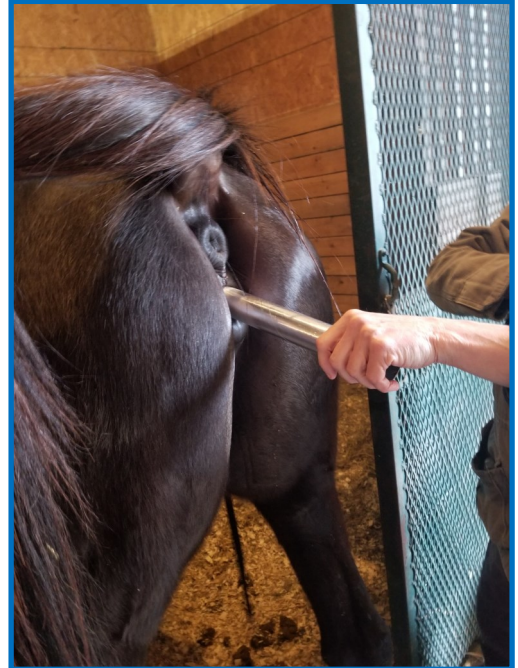
exam

Mare breeding soundness

exam

How to prevent breeding

Discuss what you know



Resource Material: CES ASC-117 The Stallion, CES ASC-116 The Mare

Topic of discussion: Foals have to come from somewhere, so how does that happen? The horse industry as a whole still has somewhat of an over population problem, so breeding horses should only be done selectively and with care to ensure the production of a horse that has a future. Understanding horse reproduction is also key in preventing it from happening. Knowing what causes pregnancy is the first step to prevention. It is also important to understand reproductive anatomy, even if you don't plan to breed your horse. They can still have health issues with these organs, and they still must be cleaned and looked after to ensure overall health.

Describe the basic steps to a Breeding soundness exam for a mare and a stallion:

List some management practices that will keep your mare from getting pregnant.

Lesson 3 Horse First Aid

What can you do to help the situation?

KEY POINTS:

- First Aid Kit
- Types of wounds
- Controlling bleeding
- Taking a temp/pulse/
respiration
- Discuss what you know



Resource Material: Alberta pp. 129-132, The Horse pp. 428-430

Topic of discussion: It is important to always be prepared. Many times the situation calls on you to be the first responder for your horse while you wait for the vet, or maybe the injury is not severe enough to warrant the cost of an exam. For these cases it is important that you have a fully stocked first aid kit, and that you know what to do in an emergency.

Go through horse supplies catalogs and build a first aid kit, see how much one would cost.

List and describe the different types of wounds.

Talk about the best ways to control bleeding.

In Level 1 we learned what normal temperature/pulse/respiration numbers were. Why is this important to know? Why should you be able to take a TPR on your own horse?

Lesson 4 Performance Judging

Judging under saddle classes.

KEY POINTS:

Classes
Organization
Understanding faults
and DQs
Discuss what you know



Resource Material: CES University of Kentucky Horse Judging Manual ASC 118

Topic of discussion: Judging halter classes is centered around conformation and tends to be fairly uniform with slight variations between breeds. However, performance judging can vary greatly from class to class. Understanding the purpose of the class, what the horses are being asked to do, and having a visual of what is ideal, all help when judging performance classes. Two basic types of performance classes exist, those based on judging the horse, and those based on judging the rider. The first thing to consider when judging is whether the focus is on the rider or the horse, and then what type of work the horse is being asked to perform.

Describe the purpose and what to look for in a Western Pleasure class and a Hunter Under Saddle class.

Discuss with your group some strategies for taking notes and remembering which horse is which during performance classes.

Lesson 5 Pasture Management

Keeping pastures healthy and thriving

KEY POINTS:

Basic Requirements

Timing

What type of grass to choose

Discuss what you know



Resource Material: CES Establishing & Managing Horse Pastures ID-147

Topic of discussion: Maintaining a healthy pasture is important to keeping your horses healthy and taking care of the land. Having good pastures not only provides nutrients and forage for your horses, but it also provides footing, and prevents erosion. Also, active pasture management helps to keep out unwanted weeds. Read over the CES Fact sheet on managing horse pastures and answer the following questions.

Discuss your own pasture or bring pictures of a pasture. Evaluate what needs to be done to improve the quality.

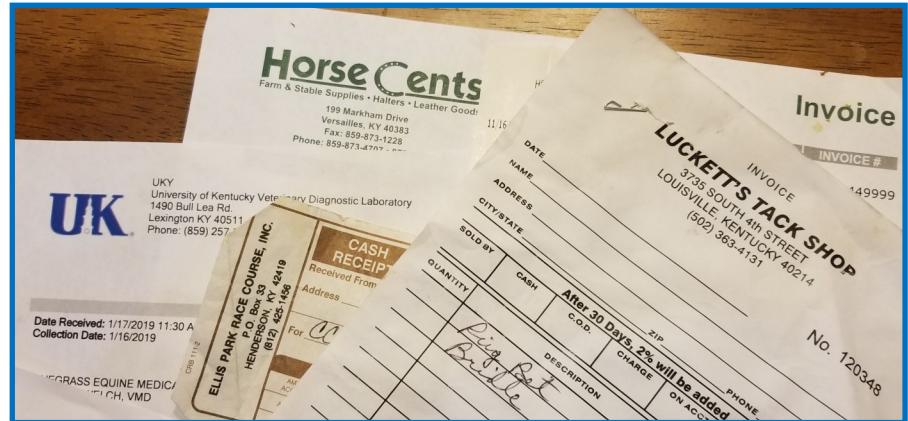
What is a dry lot? What would be reasons to have a dry lot at your facility?

Lesson 6 Cost Calculations

How much money does it take to own a horse?

KEY POINTS:

- Costs of horse
- Facilities
- Feed and Hay
- Health & Medical
- Supplies and Equipment
- Discuss what you know



Resource Material: Horse.eXtension.org Equine Business Resources-The Real Cost of Owning A Horse

Topic of discussion: Buying a horse can be expensive, but taking care of them will usually cost even more. It is best to know what you are getting into before buying a horse, or if you already own one, it is also important to understand what the financial commitment is. Read through the eXtension.org article and start to think through what expenses you have for your horse.

Make a chart, either individually or with a group. Decide on what kind of horse you will get, where you will keep it, and then start listing the monthly expenses. Do some research to find out what each item will cost in your area, or the high and low end of the price. Discuss with your club to see who has the most expensive, the least expensive, or if other people thought of things you didn't.

Lesson 7 Giving Oral Reasons

If you are organized, it's not that bad!

KEY POINTS:

- Taking Notes
- Organization
- Making Statements
- Terminology
- Discuss what you know



Resource Material: CES University of Kentucky Horse Judging Manual ASC 118 pp.17-23

Topic of discussion: Many people dread having to give oral reasons at judging contests, but it's really not that bad if you are organized and you practice! For starters, it's important to realize that you are not trying to say exactly what the official wants to hear, instead it is your opportunity to convince the official that you know what you are talking about and to defend your order of placing. Confidence is key. Once you learn how to take notes, stay organized and some key terminology, oral reasons should be a breeze!

Practice giving oral reasons with things other than horses. Be creative. Example: grab 4 different shoes (sandal, tennis shoe, dress shoe, boot). Place the shoes in order from best to worst for a given category. "To play sports", "For a job interview", "For a day at the beach". Notice how the order changes depending on the category. Prepare a set of reasons for a given category and deliver them to the group.

Activity 1 Footfall Patterns

Understanding the different gaits of the horse and the footfall patterns of the gaits are important to riding, judging, and understanding the locomotion of the horse. Fill out the questions below for the basic gaits. Discuss gaited horses such as Tennessee Walking Horses, Mountain Horses and others to see how those gaits differ from the basic gaits. Resource material: Equine Science pp. 69-83

Walk

Speed of gait: _____ Number of Beats: _____ Footfall Pattern: _____

Length of stride: _____ Number of feet on the ground at one time: _____

Trot/Jog

Speed of gait: _____ Number of Beats: _____ Footfall Pattern: _____

Length of stride: _____ Number of feet on the ground at one time: _____

Canter/Lope

Speed of gait: _____ Number of Beats: _____ Footfall Pattern: _____

Length of stride: _____ Number of feet on the ground at one time: _____

Gallop/Run

Speed of gait: _____ Number of Beats: _____ Footfall Pattern: _____

Length of stride: _____ Number of feet on the ground at one time: _____

Activity 2 Horse Shoes

If you ever participate in a 4-H educational contest, chances are, at some point there will be a question about horse shoes. It is also to your advantage to understand shoes to better manage your own horse, and in some cases to abide by horse show or class rules. Define the following shoes and shoe terminology.

Resource material: Horse Discovery Website-Horse shoes

Clips:

Studs:

Toe grab:

Calks:

Keg shoe:

Heart Bar:

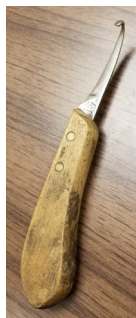
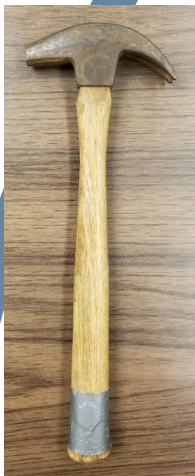
Sliding Plate:

Egg-bar shoe:



Activity 3 Farrier Tools

Hoof care is vitally important to maintaining an overall healthy horse. Regular trimming is important not only for optimal performance but for general care for the animal. In Level 2 we learned about hoof care and hoof anatomy. Now it's time to learn about the tools used by hoof care professionals. Label the tools pictured and describe what they are used for.



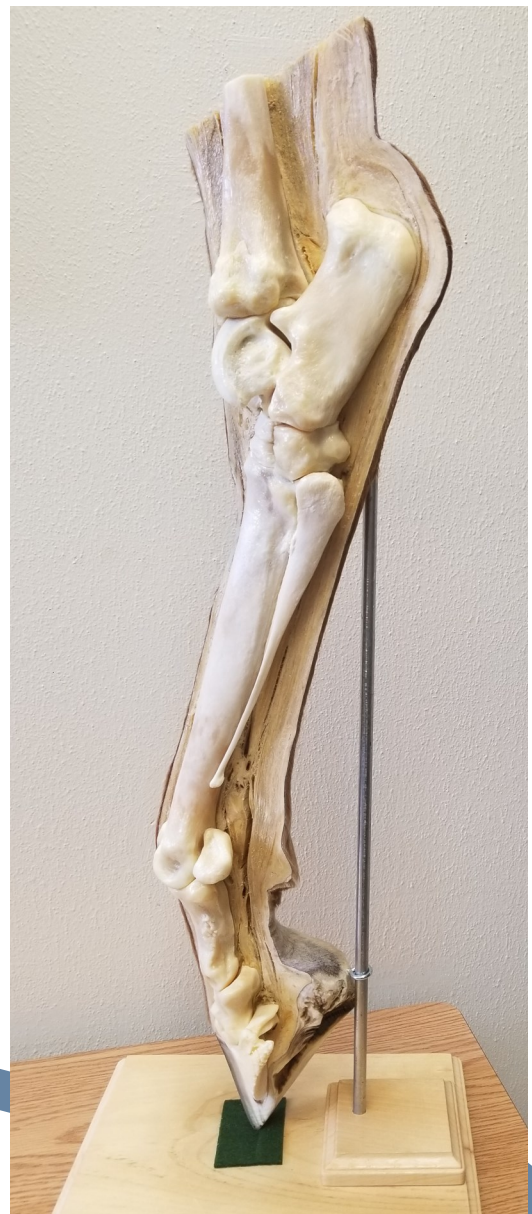
- Clinch Cutter
- Crease Nail Puller
- Driving Hammer
- Hoof Knife
- Nippers
- Clincher
- Rasp
- Pull Off
- Loop Knife



Activity 4 Appendicular Skeleton

The appendicular skeleton is made up of appendages or in other words, the legs. Label the bones below, and identify which bones are in the front legs and which are in the back. Also, discuss how humans have the same appendicular bones as horses, find where they are in humans, then compare and contrast.

Resource material: Equine Science p. 203



Activity 5 Trailer Safety

If you are dealing with horses, chances are that you will have to deal with trailering horses at some point. Understanding how to hook up a trailer to a truck, and knowing whether the truck can handle the trailer is important not only for your safety and your horse's safety, but also for all other people on the road. With your group, learn how to find a truck's towing capacity, how to attach a trailer, and the different kinds of trailers available. Knowing how to load a horse safely is important as well, and how to properly train your horse to load onto a trailer. There are many checklists in the resource material to help you remember all of the safety tips when trailering your horse. Create your own checklist that includes things to remember when hooking up the trailer, how to load the horse, and things to take with you on your trip.

Resource material: Saddle Up Safely Trailering Your Horse Safely



Activity 6 Industry Topics

If you are involved in the horse industry at any level, the general public will likely assume you are connected to all of it. Therefore, it is important for you to be up-to-date on current industry topics in all disciplines and breeds. This also will help you to be a well rounded horseperson as well as being able to serve as an advocate for all-things horse. Start a discussion within your club about some current topics that you are familiar with, and give your opinion. Remember, it is important to be open minded when discussing these topics. Other people may have different opinions than you, and that's OK! Be respectful, and try to learn something! Use the following format to get the talking going.

Breed: _____ **Discipline:** _____

Topic of discussion: _____

What is the problem? Why is this an issue now? Did the industry change, or did society change?

What is the solution? If there was change, was it positive?

Would you have handled it differently? What are the reasons action was taken in the first place? Is there a way to voice your opinion to the organization's decision makers?

Skills Sheet

This list of skills must be performed for your Certified 4-H Leader. You must complete the skill in a safe and proficient manner to the satisfaction of your leader. Once accomplished, have the leader sign and date the appropriate skill.

◇ **Turning a horse out into the pasture**

4-H Leader Signature _____ **Date** _____

◇ **Bandaging a leg**

4-H Leader Signature _____ **Date** _____

◇ **Bathing a horse**

4-H Leader Signature _____ **Date** _____

◇ **Ride a canter/lope with a simple lead change**

4-H Leader Signature _____ **Date** _____

◇ **Cleaning tack**

4-H Leader Signature _____ **Date** _____

◇ **Take temperature, pulse, & respiration**

4-H Leader Signature _____ **Date** _____

Kentucky 4-H Horse Program

Horse Academy Level 4

This certifies that _____, has completed all requirements for the Horse Academy Level 4. This includes but is not limited to; lessons, activities, skills, and received a score of _____ on the Level 4 Completion Exam.

These accomplishments are verified by:

_____ Date _____

4-H Certified Volunteer Leader

_____ Date _____

County 4-H Agent



References

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Alberta Horse Manual. 4-H Branch Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, 2015.

The Horse

Evans J.W., Hoffman, R.M., Petersen, J.L., Van Vleck, L.D. The Horse. 3rd Edition. Waveland Press Inc, 2021.

Equine Science

Griffiths, Jean T. Equine Science: Basic knowledge for horse people of all ages. Equine Network/Source Interlink media, 2008.

Saddle Up Safely

Saddleupsafely.org

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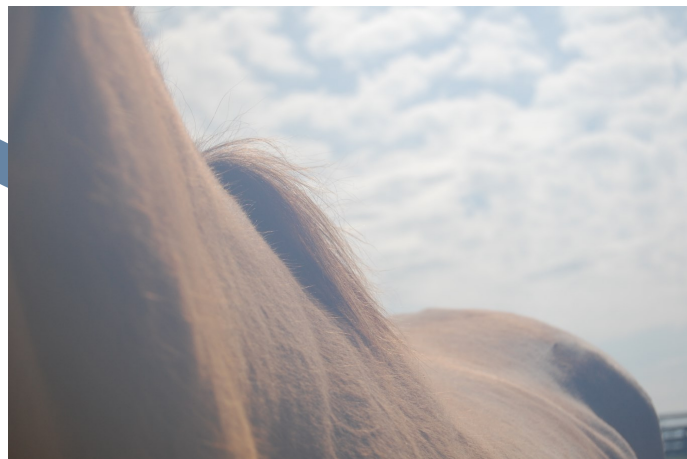
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Horse Discovery Webpage

<https://afs.ca.uky.edu/horse-discovery>

Horses.eXtension.org

All online references are linked at the KY 4-H Horse Website









This book was created in 2019 for the use of the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program. For more information contact:

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