



Kids n' Horses News

April Sunshine & Shedding Horses!

Howdy to all the 4-H Horse Project members in Kansas!

This is the April, 2019 edition of the Kids n' Horses Newsletter to help keep you informed about 4-H Horse events happening around the state; AND give you a little educational information too!

Be sure to re-enroll in 4-H in your county and update your 4-H Horse ID Certificate. You can complete and submit your 4-H Horse ID Certificate for the 2018-19 4-H year anytime now, but the sooner the better. **They are due MAY 1st.** Reminder: This form should be printed on 1 piece of paper with the photo of the horse attached.

The Kansas 4-H Horse Show Rule book is posted online at <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/S133.pdf> !! Be sure to make yourself familiar with it before you attend 4-H shows; especially the KSF 4-H Horse Show. This rule book will be used at District & State 4-H Horse Shows. There are several rule changes; please read it carefully. To get a copy, contact your local Extension Office or the Kansas 4-H Horse Show Rule Book. Make sure it is the Revised Spring Spring 2018 edition.

If you would like to submit an article or have a horse event you would like to publicize, please e-mail that information to Jean at jhuntley@ksu.edu. **Happy trails and safe riding!**

Dates to Remember:

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| May 1 | 4-H Horse Identification papers MUST BE SIGNED by County Agent, 4-H'ers and parent |
| June 27 | South Central 4-H District Horse Show, Hutchinson
Entry deadline June 10 |
| June 27 | South West 4-H District Horse Show, Dodge City
Entry deadline June 15 |
| June 27 | South East 4-H District Horse Show, Parsons
Entry deadline June 15 |
| June 27 | North East 4-H District Horse Show, Topeka
Entry deadline June 1 |
| July 1 | North Central 4-H District Horse Show, Salina
Entry deadline June 1 |
| July 3 | North West 4-H District Horse Show, Oakley
Entry deadline June 14th |
| July 9 | East Central 4-H District Horse Show, Lawrence
Entry deadline TBD |



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Horse Classes at Discovery Days

Are You Ready for Discovery Days? Put May 29 - May 31, 2019 on your calendar to be in Manhattan on the K-State campus. This year's theme is "Discovery Your Spotlight" Discovery Days offers classes and tours about 4-H projects, careers, hobbies, community service and more! Youth who are 13-18 years old as of January 1 of 2019.

The horse classes being offered this year are:

Horsin' Around 440, 540
Some never outgrow the love of horses; so come spend quality time learning about the beautiful and fascinating animals that tug at your heart and boot straps. Take a trail ride into learning about horse quiz bowl, hippology and judging. Discover the equine in a new perspective from breeds to nutrition to reproduction. Test your horse knowledge when others and gain a new and deeper appreciation for your horse love. The instructors are Pam Van Horn, Extension 4-H Specialist, and Dr. Jenny Bormann, Professor Animal Science.

Horsin' Around 101! 241
Do you love horses and want to learn more about them, or even spend a day with them at Rock Springs 4-H Center? Come learn the basics of horse ownership, breeds, anatomy, safety with us in the classroom from the Kansas 4-H Horse Level Achievement I packet. After lunch we will head to the horse barn and put our skills to the test! There is a class Fee of \$25. The instructor is Nicole Crosson, WY County Extension Agent.

The Amazing Horse 165
If you are a person that believes like, "The earth would be nothing without the people, but the man would be nothing without the horse." Immerse yourself into learning more about these mysterious, beautiful, and elegant creatures that have captured your curiosity. Come learn the origins and transformational wonders these magnificent animals have contributed to our basic lives. Discover horse breeds and how

different breeds have shaped our civilization from work to play. This interactive class will give you a new perspective of the horse. The instructors are Pam Van Horn, Extension 4-H Specialist, and Lance Sharp, Chairman of 4-H Horse Action Team.

Registration for Discovery Days closes April 15th. Go here to register: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/events/index.html>
If you have questions, please contact your local Extension Office.

Attention Project Leaders:

Are you looking for project meeting ideas? One is to help your 4-H'ers with the **Kansas Standard of Excellence Horse Achievement Level System**. These workbooks and the resource listing is available at: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animals/horse.html>

This link can be your source to many resource materials and information about the 4-H Horse project.

Some other ideas are besides showing;

- Have a Horse Judging session. Materials are available at the above link.
- Plan a trail ride. This is also a good way to have fun together and also learn safety in riding in numbers and under different situations.
- A visit to your local veterinarian to learn the basics about horse health care. (take pulse, respirations, temperature, capillary refill, deworming and vaccination program, etc.)
- Horsemanship Clinic – ask a trainer to come and give a specialized instruction on what your group is interested in.
- Plan a trip to something of interest to your group (ie race horse farm, breeding farm, horse/cowboy/rodeo/etc museum, etc.)

We all are always looking for ideas to increase our membership. Also we would love for you to share your ideas. Just send them to jhuntley@ksu.edu.



Follow the Leader

Maybe it's time to re-think the concept of leadership.

By Brent Graef, *Amercia's Horse*, July 2008

I often fear people say they want to be their horse's "leader". Generally, the way I see people go about trying to attain the "leader" position isn't really garnering respect; it's more like by intimidating the horse and trying to be a dictator.

Some folks just push the horse around until he gives in, like the bully in elementary school that took the smaller kid's milk money. No respect there, just the knowledge that trouble would come if he didn't shell out his money. Some folks try to act like another horse and play "dominance" games. To me, leadership is something very different than that.

I would suggest that folks stop working so hard to be the "leader" or "alpha" or "boss" and try more to be a good partner and friend for the horse. Most folks seem to have the idea that the "alpha" has to be the one to make all the decisions and that the horse is not capable of making any good decisions on his own. I disagree. I suggest that we find a way of trying to work with the horse – find ways that can help him understand what we are asking, as well as understanding what he's asking or offering – rather than just trying to boss him around all the time. I believe that the horse can read your intent very clearly, and offering to do things with respect, appreciation and humility will take you much farther than doing things with the intent of dominance.

If you want to be his leader, be a good, solid, and caring leader instead of a dictator.

- A good leader takes on more responsibility than his subordinate. You have the responsibility to know your horse's strengths, weaknesses, likes, dislikes, habits, and physical limitations. You have the responsibility to become the best rider you can be, provide the best care and handling you can.
- A good leader listens to the horse, then takes the horse's feedback into consideration and acts accordingly. He does not approach his horse with a set

regimen and expect the horse to fit that regimen no matter what. He understands how to read the horse well enough to find the right exercise, in the right amount, at the right time.

- A good leader accepts responsibility when things don't go as planned.
- A good leader can give the horse support and confidence when the horse gets worried.
- A good leader is able to observe, remember, compare and make a sensible plan.
- A good leader is flexible and ready to adjust to fit whatever situation might arise.
- A good leader will set up his horse for success and make him feel like a winner.
- A good leader tries to see things from the horse's perspective. Sometimes, I hear people refer to their horse as being disrespectful. In most cases, the horse is just confused by the human's lack of clarity. This would be obvious if people could see things from the horse's perspective.
- A good leader allows the horse to think for himself.
- A good leader is clear, fair and consistent.
- Through good feel, timing, judgement and skill, a good leader will inspire his horse to want to do his best.
- A good leader shows his horse love, respect, and appreciation.
- A good leader has the humility to know that he cannot appoint himself as a leader – he has to *earn* it – It is something the horse may or may not bestow upon you.

And before you put too much pressure on yourself, remember, you can have a fantastic relationship with your horse without having attained the all-high status of a true "leader". I've seen very few people who can truly be a worthy leader in their horse's eyes.



Some Level II Workbook

Preventative Health

VITAL SIGNS

Knowing a horse's normal vital signs, and how they are determined, can be important in detecting problems early in their onset. This may be important in limiting how sick the horse actually becomes, as producers will be able to alter the care of the horse to limit further stress, and will be able to contact their veterinarian if it is necessary. Complete the following table for a mature horse.

Resting Heart Rate
Resting Respiration Rate
What is the mucous membrane color (gums)?
If hydration status is normal, how long should the skin remain "stuck?"
Capillary re-fill time in healthy animals occurs how fast?

COMMON ILLNESSES

The following table contains a list of common illnesses that inflict horses. Complete the table in regards to determining if the illnesses are contagious or not, and list their cause in general terms.

Illness	Contagious? (Y/N)	Cause	Vaccination (Y/N)
Colic			
Distemper (Strangles)			
West Nile Virus			
Founder			
Influenza			
Sleeping Sickness (Encephalomyelitis)			
Potomac Horse Fever			
Rhinopneumonitis			
Tetanus			