Horse Project

What is required for the Horse Project?

- A “Horse and Pony Card” has to be on file with the county 4-H Office by May 31st. (The card can be found in Appendix B.)
- The 4-Her is required to complete Quality Assurance courses online. These classes are required if you are beginning the horse project and when you go from one age category to the next (Junior to Intermediate, Intermediate to Senior.) The website to complete Quality Assurance is https://webtools.moo.umd.edu/AHQA/.
- The 4-Her is required to complete the Horsemanship Standards, Levels 1 & 2 are to compete at County Shows and Level 3 is to compete in State Shows. The Standards consist of a written test, oral practicum, and a riding pattern for each level. Testing can be done year round, to set up an appointment with an examiner contact the county 4-H Office.
- At the end of the year the 4-Her should complete a Project Record Book. (The form can be found in Appendix B.)

Do I have to own my own horse?

No, you are not required to own your own horse. You can lease a horse from someone else and use it. The Performance Animal Leasing Guidelines and Form can be found in Appendix B.

What is required to take my horse to a show?

- A veterinary visit must have been completed and a Coggins (Equine Infectious Anemia) Test must be pulled. Talk to your veterinarian about what shots they recommend to give your horse based on what you want to do.
- A negative Coggins must be shown at the show. The Coggins had to have been pulled within 12 months of the show date.
- A Self-Certification form must be completed prior to taking your horse to the show. (The form can be found in Appendix B.)
- If your horse is going out-of-state to a show, your horse is required to have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI or Health Certificate) issued within 30 days of the show. Also, check with state to see what else may be required in order to show.
What is Available to further my Knowledge on Horses?

- **Horse Judging** - Learn to evaluate a horse for breed or performance characteristics. Learn the different parts of a horse (hocks, pastern, withers, etc.) You can participate as an individual or as a team or you can participate to learn more about the horse project. Seniors have the opportunity to attend the National Contest if they place high enough at the State Contest, held in the Early Spring.

- **Horse Bowl** - This contest is set up like “It’s Academic.” You work on a 4 person team and your knowledge is tested through questions. Your team will buzz in to give an answer. Seniors have the opportunity to attend the National Contest if they place high enough at the State Contest, usually held in the Spring.

- **Hippology** - Juniors and Intermediates test their knowledge about horses at an identification table and through a written exam. Seniors test their equine knowledge through the identification table, written exam, and a slide section, to get them prepared for the National Contest. The State contest is usually held in the Spring.

If you are interested in getting involved with Horse Judging, Horse Bowl, or Hippology, contact your county 4-H Office to discover when and where the county practices meet and how to join in the fun!