Horse

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Educational Topics

General knowledge

• Define colt, filly, foal, weanling, yearling, mare, gelding, stallion.
• Understand how horses are measured for height.

Breeds and registries

• Identify three to five pony, light, sport and draft breeds (12-20 total) within the US and their respective registries.

Colors

• Identify basic coat colors and facial and leg markings.

History of the horse

• Understand general evolutionary changes of equids through time.
• Identify differing working and recreational roles of horses through time.

Selection and use of horses

• Identify common parts of horse’s body encompassing the head, neck, fore and hind legs, abdomen, and hindquarter.
• Understand general concepts of conformation and balance.
• Recognize two to three common conformation faults.

Hoof care

• Identify major parts of the hoof.
• Determine why regular hoof care is important to the health of the horse.
Horse Beginner Outcomes

Equine health and disease
• Assess horse’s temperature, respiratory rate, hydration status and heart rate.
• Identify symptoms of a sick, injured or unwell equid that would require medical attention.
• List three to five diseases or conditions that affect horses.
• List two to three vaccines horses receive annually (core or risk-based).

Tack and equipment
• Identify parts of an English (hunt seat, cutback and dressage) saddle and Western saddle, and appropriate bridles.
• Understand difference between curb and snaffle bits and identify one to two examples of each.

Nutrition and feeding
• Understand differences between forage and concentrates and their role within an equine diet; provide two examples of each.
• Identify physical qualities of hay indicating poor or high quality.
• List basic rules and guidelines of feeding horses (i.e., amount of minimum vs. recommended forage intake per day).

Responsible horse ownership
• Understand the needs of the horse from an owner.
• Identify basic, minimum care standards for horses and other equids.

Horse behavior
• List horse’s senses and associated structures.
• Understand horse’s ability to process information and apply to maneuvering around horses safely.
• Discuss horse as a prey animal and role of herd in innate behavior.

Educational Contests

Horse judging
• Youth should be able to accurately place halter and performance classes in accordance with the Tennessee 4-H Horse Championships Handbook in practice and at county, regional, open state contests.
• Youth should be preparing and delivering simple sets of oral reasons to accurately reflect placing decisions in practice and at county, regional and open state contests.
Horse Beginner Outcomes

Hippology
- Youth should be comfortable completing a 35-question written exam, 25-slide identification phase, and judging two classes of performance and/or halter classes in accordance with the Tennessee 4-H Horse Championship Handbook.
- Youth should be studying above outcomes in preparation for contests at the county, regional and state levels.

Horse Bowl
- Youth should be studying above outcomes in preparation for a quiz game show-style contest in accordance with the Tennessee 4-H Horse Championships Handbook for contests at the county, regional and state levels.

Public speaking
- Youth should practice preparing and delivering speeches to county agents, volunteers and/or other adult or youth leaders on content outcomes listed above in accordance with the Tennessee 4-H Horse Championships Handbook.

Individual presentation
- Youth should practice preparing and delivering individual presentations to county agents, volunteers and/or other adult or youth leaders on content outcomes listed above in accordance with the Tennessee 4-H Horse Championships Handbook.

Team presentation
- Youth should practice preparing and delivering team presentations to county agents, volunteers and/or other adult or youth leaders on content outcomes listed above in accordance with the Tennessee 4-H Horse Championships Handbook.

For youth participating in riding activities or showing, the following concepts should be mastered in accordance with years in project, but are not considered mandatory.