

# Horse

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*For more information, contact:*

*Jennie Ivey, Department of Animal Science*

*Jennifer Richards, Tennessee 4-H Youth Development*

*James W. Swart, Tennessee 4-H Youth Development*

## Educational Topics

### General knowledge

- Broaden vocabulary, descriptive terms and knowledge of the equine industry through mastery of the outcomes detailed below.

### Breeds and registries

- Identify 5-10 pony, light, sport and draft nationally and internationally (20-40 total) along with their respective registries.
- Determine use of breed and their application to the equine industry.
- Understand differences between light breed types, such as hunter-, stock- and saddle-types, and provide examples of each.

### Colors

- Analyze and identify coat color modifications and coat patterns.

### History of the horse

- Delineate the scientific classification of the horse and other equids.

### Selection and use of horses

- Select horse based on conformation, form to function and defend reasoning.
- Evaluate horse's conformation and performance through judging comparison.
- Understand differences between conformation faults and blemishes; provide a variety of examples for each.
- Identify parts of body systems, muscles, bones and ligaments through internal and external structure assessment.
- Recognize common fore and hind limb conformation faults that can cause unsoundness or lameness.



### **Hoof care**

- Determine main diseases and conditions that affect hoof health and quality, along with potential therapeutic interventions.
- Identify main parts of a horse shoe and nail.
- Name three to five tools used by a farrier and their uses.

### **Equine health and disease**

- Categorize and describe major equine diseases based on vector, transmittance, symptoms and treatment
- Categorize and describe major internal and external parasites affecting equids.
- Identify difference between core- and risk-based vaccinations for horses.
- Know basic equine first aid and emergency care.
- Relate condition of horse's teeth to overall health.
- List signs of colic and laminitis, methods of treatment, and management strategies for prevention or care of each condition.
- Understand preventative health care practices for horses and develop a management plan including vaccinations, fecal egg counts/deworming, dental care and other associated procedures.

### **Tack and equipment**

- Discuss basic equipment needed for trailering and safety during transportation.
- Understand importance of tack and equipment safety and identify situations where tack could be considered dangerous.
- Identify types of materials bits are made from and factors influencing bit severity.
- Recognize different types of saddles, head stalls, supportive equipment, rider turnout and other basic equipment relative to specific disciplines.

### **Nutrition and feeding**

- Describe characteristics of acceptable and unacceptable forages, concentrates and water for equine consumption.
- Identify sources of protein, fat, fiber and carbohydrates from commonly utilized feedstuffs from feed tag/ingredient list and feed samples.
- List three poisonous/toxic plants and describe their characteristics.
- Identify fat and water-soluble vitamins.
- Categorize minerals as macro- or trace minerals and identify which minerals belong to which classification.
- Understand basic concept of maintenance nutritional needs over nutritional needs of growth, pregnancy, lactation and work.
- Apply and utilize concepts of body condition scoring and body weight estimates to make simple ration recommendations.
- Recognize two to three weeds and two to three forage species commonly seen in horse pasture.

### **Responsible horse ownership**

- Determine cost of horse ownership on annual basis and create accurate estimates of ownership and care.
- Apply concepts of horse welfare to management concerns throughout equine industry, including the unwanted horse population.
- Identify criteria for selecting horses for purchase or lease based on experience, age and suitability of mount to rider.
- Identify criteria for selling horses and reasonable estimation of training and cost.

### **Horse behavior**

- Classify roles of horses within a herd, and relate to pecking order for management considerations.
- Understand how horse communicates through position of eyes, ears, head/neck, hind quarter, tail, and overall body position

### **Facilities**

- List three types of fencing used for horse pastures and provide advantages and disadvantages for each.
- Identify types of horse bedding, including pros, cons and disposal of each type.
- Understand emergency preparedness and disaster planning.
- Discuss factors impacting pasture quality, overgrazing and soil erosion.

### **Waste management**

- Assess waste produced by horses annually and methods of disposal.

## **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 and open state contests.
- Youth should be preparing and delivering simple sets oral reasons to accurately reflect placing decisions in practice and at county, regional and open state contests.

### **Hippology**

- Youth should be comfortable completing a 50 question written exam, 50 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.

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