



Kids n' Horses News

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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

This is the December, 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!

IF you have not already done so, it is a GREAT time to complete a new 4-H Horse Identification Certificate for the 2019/2020 4-H year. If you need a new form, go to: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/P1039.pdf>

Or if you need help, an example is at: [https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animals/docs/horse/Horse ID Certificate Example.pdf](https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animals/docs/horse/Horse_ID_Certificate_Example.pdf)

This form should be printed front & back of 1 sheet of paper with a picture (a standard size photo, not an 8x10) attached to the back of the form.

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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| Dec 14 | Buckle Bonanza Horse Show, Meade
For more information about the Buckle shows, go to:
https://www.meade.k-state.edu/4-h/documents/2019%20Show.pdf |
| Jan 15 | Registration due for Horse Panorama to State 4-H Office |
| Jan 24-26 | Horse Panorama, Rock Springs 4-H Center |
| Mar 6 | State 4-H Horse Judging Contest, Equifest, Salina |

"When I brush my horse, I am really telling him my problems with my hands and my heart. In return, my horse leans into me, seeming to say, 'It's going to be OK.' By his mere presence, he comforts me. He doesn't have to say a word."

Author Cara Whitney in "Unbridled Faith: 100 devotions from the horse farm"



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Horse Panorama

When: January 24 - 26, 2020

Where: Rock Springs 4-H Center

Who: 4-H Members ages 7-18 and adult volunteers. Horse Panorama is a compilation of various contests related to the Horse Project. Contests include: quiz bowl, hippology, public speaking presentations, photography and educational posters. The competitive events are for 4-H'ers 9-18 years of age. There will also be activities for the 7 and 8 year olds.

State 4-H Horse Judging Contest

The 2020 State Horse Judging Contest will be held on Friday, March 6, in conjunction with Equifest held in Salina.

Equine Extravaganza

The first Equine Extravaganza was held November 9, 2019 at Rock Springs. 133 youth and adults attended the conference. Youth sessions included: Introduction to Judging; Showing 101-rules, tack, safety; Health Care; Introduction to Quiz Bowl and Hippology; Showmanship/Horsemanship; Demonstration & Public Speaking, Record Keeping/KAP; and Achievement Level Review & Testing. The adult sessions were: Introduction to the Kansas Horse Project; Getting Started for Leaders and Parents; Introduction to 4-H Horse Panorama Contest; and State and Area Events.

4-H'ers and adults got to experience what its like to be in the 'hot seat' for quiz bowl, hippology slides, exam and stations, and to be able to build a network of who to turn to.

We would like to thank all our presenters for their time and contributions to make our 1st Extravaganza a success. We would also like to thank our vendors for attending and giving out door prizes. Finally, we would like to thank the 4-H Horse Action Team members and the Kansas 4-H Foundation for sponsoring this event!

4-H Horse Achievement Levels

The 4-H Horse Achievement Levels consist of four achievement levels (I, II, III, IV) each of which contains three sections: knowledge, leadership and horsemanship skills. For each level, participants must complete all 3 sections. Once participants successfully pass the required sections, they will receive a certificate of achievements and be granted to right to advance to the next level.

The steps are:

- Complete the workbook for the Achievement Level.
- Take completed workbook to Extension Office for signatures.
- Extension Agent/Office professional sends in front page with payment of \$10.
- Agent/Office professional sets up an account on the 4-H web site with 4-H member through the Level Testing site or contacts office for paper test.
- Exam is proctored while 4-H member takes either online or on paper.
- When exam finished notify or send exam into state 4-H office.
- The 4-H'er will receive the score from state 4-H office.
- Must pass written exam before taking grounds/riding test.
- If successful, Agent or 4-H member contacts Evaluator for grounds/riding test.
- If unsuccessful, 4-H member must re-take written exam and pay \$5.
- Evaluator sends in ground/riding test scores.
- If unsuccessful, 4-H member must re-take grounds/riding test and pay \$5

In order to compete at District 4-H Horse Shows and possible the State 4-H Horse Show, all 4-H'ers must have completed Achievement Level I. All other levels are the choice of the 4-H'er & their family.

If you have questions, please contact your local Extension Office. If they are unsure, they may contact the State 4-H Office or a member of the Horse Action Team.

We encourage all 4-H'ers to complete Kansas 4-H Horse Standard of Excellence Achievement Level I as the information is basic and good safety information.

The 12 Days of Christmas for Horses

Here is a twist on a holiday favorite – great gifts for your equine family.

On the first day of Christmas, give your horse your attention. Whether it is a good brushing or just a scratch in the ‘oh so favorite’ spot, your beloved friend will appreciate your time.



On the second day of Christmas, give your horse a safe barn and pasture. Check electrical wiring in the barn. Look for loose boards, nails and screw eyes that can be a source of injury. Check fencing for loose boards, posts and wires. Make sure all feed storage containers are clean and secure. Clever horses and ponies can open and unlatch doors and containers. Check your fire extinguisher. While you're at it, check the trailer and the hitch on your vehicle.

On the third day of Christmas, schedule a visit with your veterinarian for a health checkup and suggestions for maintaining the well-being of your horse. While you're at it, visit your physician for your own health checkup to be sure the entire family is healthy.

On the fourth day of Christmas, make your horse a warm mash. Some folks like to use wheat bran; however, rolled oats or beet pulp can also make a good base. Carrots, molasses, apples and applesauce make flavorful additions.

On the fifth day of Christmas, talk with your veterinarian about your parasite control program. Your veterinarian may recommend a fecal exam to determine the parasite load in your horse.

On the sixth day of Christmas, visit an equine therapy organization. We already know that horses are good for people. Find out what you can do to support your local organizations.

On the seventh day of Christmas, create an emergency response plan for your horses. Because of their size and specific transportation needs, horses require extra consideration for disasters. Consider your options for identification such as a tattoo, microchip, brand or bridle tags.

Visit the AAEP website for Emergency Disaster and Preparedness Guidelines.

On the eighth day of Christmas, visit the University of Guelph website for a biosecurity assessment of your facility. This tool provides information on equine health, infectious disease and infectious disease control.

On the ninth day of Christmas, buy your horse a ball. Many horses will amuse themselves in the stall or pasture with a ball. Some horses prefer the ones with a handle.

On the tenth day of Christmas, get your horse a slow feeder for grain or hay. The slow feeder makes mealtime more stimulating. Slow feeding keeps the horse amused for longer periods of time and encourages healthy digestion. Many ideas are available on the Internet for homemade slow feeders.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, wash that saddle pad or blanket. You may even need to replace the saddle pad or blanket. Remember the blanket or pad helps to protect the horse's back, which is critical for their comfort.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, go through your veterinary medicine cabinet and toss expired and contaminated medications. Using expired or contaminated medications can do more harm than good. If you like to keep a dose of pain relief on hand, check with your veterinarian for the best product for your needs.

by Elisabeth J. Giedt, DVM

Article suggested by Christa Obermeyer

The EYES Have It

A horse's field of vision is nearly 360 degrees. His only blind spots are directly behind him and a very small area in front of him. The horse is not color blind like many other animals. Horses see yellow best. Then orange and red. They have difficulty with blues and violets, but can distinguish green well.

--From "Horses for Dummies", by Audrey Pavia



K-State horse judging team captures two world titles

MANHATTAN, Kan. – The Kansas State University horse judging team captured a bit of history this fall when the squad won two of the most prestigious contests offered for collegiate competitors.

K-State won the American Paint Horse Association title in September and followed that up with a victory at the American Quarter Horse Association contest in mid-November. It's the first time that any four-year school has pulled off the judging double, according to head coach James Lattimer.

"It's always great to see young people succeed," said Lattimer, an assistant professor of animal science. "I attended K-State and judged here just as they did and had some success on the judging floor, but it pales in comparison to the pride you have as the coach and seeing a young person succeed."

Like other livestock judging contests, horse judging requires team members to evaluate any of a dozen classes of horses, place them according to pre-determined criteria, and provide oral reasons for those placements to judges.

"At a collegiate level, it's very difficult," said team member Emily Prugh, a senior from Elkhart, Indiana. "You really have to step up your game and you have to be creative in the reasons room. But we practice intensely so that we are ready for the contest and we really know our stuff when we walk into that contest. You're no longer scared of what might happen, but excited to show your abilities."

In addition to Prugh, team members included Taylor Bachtel of Leavenworth, Kansas; Lauren Greiner of Papillion, Nebraska; Krissy Isle of Coffeyville, Kansas; Erin LeKamp of New Berlin, Illinois; Ally Leslie of Inman, Kansas; and Emily Meier of Goddard, Kansas.

K-State graduate students Clarissa Conrad and Rachel Sorensen were assistant coaches.

"I think what makes these two wins even more special is just knowing that we were a group of young people coming from different states and different backgrounds and we all came together

and grew a tight-knit bond," Meier said. "It really was ordinary people doing extra-ordinary things."

Added Leslie, "We all got into this last spring and we were hoping to come back with wins. But I don't think any of us truly thought we could pull it off. Being able to do that...I'm really proud of that."

The AQHA contest has been held for 40 years. K-State has won that contest four times in the past 11 years, most recently in 2017. The APHA contest is just in its fourth year.

K-State's prep for the national contests is a lot like what sports teams go through. The team was practicing 10-12 hours a week outside of class time, sometimes between classes or early in the morning.

"We all had to work together outside of the contest, during practice, sharing reasons terms and talking about classes (of horses)," Prugh said. "By working together, we were able to give ourselves a competitive edge and I think that makes our win even more special."

"You have great years and world championship years and then you have years that are quite opposite of that," Lattimer said. "And the difference between those is work ethic, dedication and a competitor's spirit." More information about [K-State's horse judging team is available online](#).



4-H'er's Corner

My fellow horse members and I are studying and getting ready to go to Horse Panorama. Horse Panorama is located at Rock Springs and you do all sorts of things about horses including quiz bowl and hippology. It is really just a fun, learning experience. We went last year; it was our first year so we didn't do much on individual levels but we did compete in the contests. Now we know what to do. We are studying the horse body parts and their digestive tract right now in preparation for contests. My favorite part to learn about is the horse hoof.

The horse hoof is a horse's hoof. The hoof has 5 main parts to it. One of them is the horse's frog. The frog acts as a shock absorber for the foot when it makes impact with the ground, decreasing the force placed on the bones and joints of the leg. This basically means that the frog sends blood back up the horse's leg. The sole is also a main part in the horse's hoof. The sole is the underside of the hoof, but most of it does not make contact with the ground because it is a bit concave. There is also the hoof wall. The hoof wall is the first part that you see in the hoof. This is the hardest part of the hoof. It is what protects the more delicate things inside the hoof. You also have the white line. The inner wall of the hoof is more pliable than the hard outer wall. The white line laminae bears much of the weight of the horse. Lastly there are the bars. The bars are extensions of the hoof wall that turn in at the heel and run part way along the frog. The bars strengthen the heel area and control overexpansion of the heels. This area also contributes to building the sole of the hoof and helps support the horse's weight.

Written by: Jamie Turner, Meade Co 4-H

The First Christmas: Cowboy Style

by Baxter Black

Now, I 'spect most of you cowboys have heard the story 'bout Christmas. How it came to be an' all, but I wanna 'splain it so's y'all kin understand.

It all started with this cowboy named Joe. He's married him a girl named Maria.....

Times was hard in them days. They's down to the crumbly jerky and one ol' paint gelding named Duke. To top it off, Maria was in the family way! They'd been ridin' several days, with Joe mostly walkin'.

They camped on the trail and Maria was gettin' tired and ornery. Late one night, December 24th, I think, they spotted the lights of a little burg. It was a welcome sight, 'cause the weather'd turned coolish.

There was only one hotel in town and Joe offered to chop wood or wash dishes for a room, but they were full up. The clerk said they could lay out their rolls in the livery stable. Git 'em out of the wind, anyway. So Joe built 'em a nest in one of the stalls and went out to rustle up some grub. When he came back, Maria was fixin' to have that baby! Well, Joe panicked! He laid out his slicker, fluffed up the straw and ran down the street lookin' for a doc.

By the time he got back, Maria'd done had the baby! It was a boy. She had him wiped off an' wrapped up in Joe's extra longjohn shirt. Joe was proud and Maria was already talkin' baby talk to the little one. They discussed what to call him. Joe wouldn't have minded if they'd named him Joe, Jr. but Maria wanted to call him Jesus. A promise she'd made before Joe knew her.

Maria was tuckered. Jesus was sleepin' like a baby and Joe was tickin' like a two dollar watch! Fatherhood had hit him like a bag of loose salt. Just then he heard singin'.

In through the door of the livery come six Mexican shepherders. They gathered around the baby and said he sure looked good. "Niño especial," they said. Then they laid out some tortillas and commenced to visit.

Suddenly three fellas rode right into the livery. There was two Indian braves and a black cavalry scout. They told Joe that they'd had a vision and followed a star right to this very spot. Joe said, "No kiddin'?" "Shore nuf," they said. This was good news to Joe.

Not only that, they'd brought three buffalo hides, two handmade blankets and a little poke of gold dust which they gave to Joe, to use for the baby.

Joe and Maria were overwhelmed. One of the herders tied together a little crib. He packed the bottom with straw and laid a sheepskin over it. Maria laid Baby Jesus in it and He never woke up; just gurgled and smiled.

Then the whole bunch of 'em stayed up all night talkin' 'bout Christmas. Joe never forgot. He did his best to raise his son right and when Jesus went on to bigger and better things, Joe'd remember that night. When a handful of strangers helped his little family through a hard time.

He told Jesus 'bout it when He was old enough to understand. How just a little kindness to yer fellow man can go a long way. Jesus took it to heart.

Merry Christmas!