The 4-H horse project is an exciting 4-H project area because you can participate whether you own a horse or not. Discover all the aspects of raising and riding horses.

- Appreciate riding as recreation.
- Learn horsemanship skills.
- Develop an understanding of breeding, training and raising horses as a business.
- Acquire skills in horse management by owning and being responsible for an animal.
- Acquire safety skills to prevent injury to people and animals.

Here’s what you can do all year!

**Starting Out**
- Basic/Level 1
  - Learn about basic horse care.
  - Identify the parts of a horse.
  - Learn breeds of horses.
  - Learn the gaits of the horse.
  - Understand horse reproduction parts.
  - Learn about genetics and heredity of horses.
  - Investigate horse diseases.
  - Learn how to control parasites.
  - Discover causes of colic.
  - Practice vaccinations.

**Learning More**
- Intermediate/Level 2
  - Learn the basics of trail riding.
  - Check horse vital signs.
  - Learn how to mount and dismount safely.
  - Learn etiquette to ride safely as a group.
  - Communicate with your horse.
  - Practice horsemanship maneuvers.
  - Improve your riding style.

**Expanding Horizons**
- Advanced/Level 3
  - Research and purchase show clothing.
  - Improve a show horse’s appearance.
  - Improve your showmanship pattern.
  - Learn riding patterns.
  - Understand the quarter system.
  - Evaluate ethics in competitive situations.

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

**Communication**
- Present a lesson about the parts of a horse.
- Send a letter to the editor of a local newspaper describing your opinion on the ethics of a horse situation.
- Present a riding safety session at the 4-H horse workouts prior to your county show.

**Citizenship**
- Assist with the 4-H horse show at the county fair.
- Participate in the local saddle club charitable benefit.
- Set an example by always wearing a helmet and asking friends to always wear a helmet when riding horses.

**Leadership**
- Lead a trail ride for your fellow 4-H project members.
- Work with a horseless horse member to care for a horse.
- Conduct a show horse grooming clinic.
- Organize a tack swap for 4-H members.

Learn more at [www.ndsu.edu/4h/](http://www.ndsu.edu/4h/) or contact your county NDSU Extension office.
Here are other opportunities to explore the horse project:

- Attend a horse show, rodeo or other horse event.
- Visit a horse farm, horse training facility, horse boarding facility, etc.
- Participate in a horse riding camp.
- Visit a local tack shop or horse supply store.
- Check out horse events on TV to learn about different types of horse shows and events.
- Create a collection of horse showmanship and horsemanship patterns.
- Keep a diary of your practices each week.
- Research horse-related careers.
- Attend a horse camp at North Dakota 4-H Camp and participate in the community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Is it fair time? Consider riding in your county fair horse show or the North Dakota State Fair.
- Contact your county NDSU Extension office for other local workshops, activities and events.
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with NDSU to explore those majors (www.ndsu.edu).
- Present a speech or demonstration on your horse project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-H Resources</th>
<th>Other Resources</th>
<th>Recordkeeping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National 4-H Curriculum</td>
<td>Demonstration Guides</td>
<td>Horse Record (GBH095)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giddy Up and Go (GBH151)</td>
<td>Yearling to Maturity</td>
<td>Planning for My Project Adventure 8-10 (PA093)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head, Heart and Hooves (GBH152)</td>
<td>Ranch Horse</td>
<td>ND 4-H Project Plan (PA095)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable Relationships (GBH153)</td>
<td>4-H Horse Camps</td>
<td>ND 4-H Plan of Action 11-19 (PA096)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riding the Range (GBH154)</td>
<td>4-H Horse Video/DVDs (available for checkout)</td>
<td>ND 4-H Participation for 11-19 (PA098)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumping to New Heights (GBH155)</td>
<td>4-H Horse Learning Laboratory Kit (available for checkout)</td>
<td>Contests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Helper’s Guide (GBH254)</td>
<td>NDSU Equine Studies</td>
<td>Horse Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Horse (GBH156)</td>
<td>Extension Equine Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ND Horseshow Rules and Judging Guide (GBH092)</td>
<td>Horse Breed Association List</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learn more at [www.ndsu.edu/4h/](http://www.ndsu.edu/4h/) or contact your county NDSU Extension office.

**Exhibit Ideas**

- Participate in the 4-H horse show.
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you’ve learned in a related topic:
  - Horse coloring/markings patterns
  - Safety around horses
  - History of horses
  - Horse body language
  - Parts-of-a-horse matching game
  - Horse-breed comparison chart
  - Horse-stable designs
  - Knots used with horses
  - Tagging a horse
  - How to groom a horse
  - Supplies price chart
  - Horse skeleton diagram
  - Display of horse diseases
  - Growth chart for your horse
  - Dental problems of horses
  - How to shoe a horse
  - Horse reproductive system
  - Pasture management practices
  - Horse life cycle poster
  - Identify saddle, bridle and tack
  - Create a horse first-aid kit
  - Pre-show fitting techniques
  - How-to display for judging horsemanship
  - Present a horse using the “Quarter System”
  - Design your own showmanship pattern
  - Create a scrapbook or collage of photos from your horse project
  - Careers in the horse industry