KALAMAZOO COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROJECT

Each year 4-H Members may choose to do either:

1. A notebook/poster or tri-fold – including all of the requirements for each year
2. A Powerpoint/Prezi presentation – including all of the requirements for each year
3. A Video Documentary - including 2 of the requirements for each year.
4. Create your own project – A member may choose to come up with their own idea for a project. Please email the topic and method of presentation for approval to Lauren Whitehurst at Thoroughbreedsrule87@yahoo.com.
5. Group project - Members have the option to do a group or partner project in place of the individual project. The topic for the project may come from any of the years between and including the years the oldest member has completed. (i.e. If the oldest member is in their 4th year, the project can cover any of the topics from years 1-4). It can be presented in any of the above formats.

*The projects will be judged in their respective categories for each year and awarded a ribbon and a premium.
** Each project must include a personal story and the community service, accomplishments and goals form.

Year One

1. General Care of the Horse
   • Stabling – Indoor / Outdoor, types & construction materials.
   • Grooming & grooming tools
   • Food
   • Water
   • Exercise
   • Fly control
2. Safety
   • Ground safety/ Mounting/ Dismounting/ Riding
   • Trailer Safety
   • What to do VS. What NOT to do
3. Parts of the Horse
   • Label the main parts of a horse
4. My accomplishments this year and goals for next year
   • A summary of accomplishments and a list of goals for next year
Year Two

1. Normal Vital Signs
   - Respiration
   - Temperature
   - Heart Rate
   - Color

2. Health Care
   - Worming
   - Vaccines
   - Dental Care

3. Diseases
   - Pick 3 diseases and give detail about what it is, the symptoms, the treatment and the prevention for each

4. Parasites
   - Pick 3 and detail what they are, where they are found, treatment and prevention.

5. Equine First Aid Kit

6. My accomplishments this year and goals for next year
   - A summary on your accomplishments this year and a list of goals for next year.

Year Three

1. Breeds of Horse
   - Pick 3 breeds of horses and identify their County of origin, average height, characteristics, colors, and uses today

2. Colors/Markings
   - Identify the common horse colors with their appropriately identified genes (ex. Chestnut is ee)
   - Identify the common face and leg markings
   - Include any unusual colors or markings you may find.

3. Colored Breeds
   - Identify the colored horse breeds and describes what makes them unique and what qualifies them to be a colored breed.

1. My accomplishments and goals for next year
**Year Four**

1. Saddle and Bridle Parts
   - Pictures and labels of English and Western saddles and bridles
2. Tack Care
   - Cleaning
   - Storage
3. Gaits of the horse
   - Walk
   - Trot / Jog
   - Canter / Lope
   - Gallop
4. My accomplishments this year and goals for next year
5. A summary of accomplishments and a list of goals for next year

**Year Five**

1. Grain & Hay
   - Identify the different types of grain and detail why they would be fed.
   - List the types of hay and how to look for the quality.
2. Feeding Schedule
   - Write out a feeding schedule for your horse (including pasture time, hay, grain and the amounts for each at each feeding).
   - Detail what work your horse does per day and why you have chosen this feeding schedule
3. Pasture Management
   - Explain what good pasture management is, including fencing & types, safety hazards, rotation and number of horses per pasture.
4. How much does it cost to keep a horse per month?
   - Make a list of all of the expenses you have each month for your horse. Include hoof care, feed, board, equipment, vet bills, worming, etc.
5. My accomplishments this year and goals for next year
   - A summary on your accomplishments this year and a list of goals for next year.

**Year Six**

1. Conformation
   - Show a horse with ideal conformation and then pick 2 horses and detail their conformation faults.
2. Riding Styles/ Sports
   - Pick 3 riding styles or sports that interest you and give detail about them
• (eg. Horse racing, Eventing, Skijoring, Jumping, etc.)

3. Judging
   • Pick a class or discipline and detail what a judge looks for when placing horses.
   • Contact a judge of your chosen discipline and conduct an interview to find out the specific things they like and look for when judging a class.

4. My accomplishments this year and goals for next year
   • A summary on your accomplishments this year and a list of goals for next year.

Year Seven

1. Reproduction – Stallion
   • Choosing a Stallion – what you look for, contracts, etc.
   • Care
   • Reproductive Organs

2. Reproduction – Mare
   • Estrus cycle – detail the cycle of a mare.
   • Preparation for breeding
   • Care – care during pregnancy, during foaling and after foaling. Include feed, vaccines.

3. Reproduction – Foal
   • Care of the foal from birth to weaning (feed, postpartum care, etc)
   • Desensitizing
   • Halter breaking

4. Foaling Kit

5. Methods of Breeding – detail the procedures for each.
   • A.I
   • Live Cover
   • Pasture breeding

Year Eight

1. Bits
   • Pick 4 different bits and identify what they are used for, who developed them (if applicable) and any safety precautions.

2. Training Equipment & Proper Usage
   • Pick 4 different pieces of training equipment and identify what they are used for, how to use them properly and any safety precautions

3. Breaking and Training a young horse
• Explain the process of breaking and training a young horse from colt to under saddle.
• If possible aid someone in this process.

4. My accomplishments this year and goals for next year
   • A summary on your accomplishments this year and a list of goals for next year.

**Year Nine**

1. Horse Professions
   • Pick 3 horse professions and give detail.

2. Horses in Human Health Care
   • List and describe 2 ways that horses are used in Human Health Care today.

3. Interview a Professional
   • Pick a desired profession and interview a professional that works in that area.

4. My accomplishments this year and goals for next year
   • A summary on your accomplishments this year and a list of goals for next year.

**Year Ten**

1. Giving back
   • Become an active youth leader in your 4-h group. Help the younger children and assist in group meetings, help with notebooks and assist with ride meetings. Take an active part in teaching the younger 4-hers about horses and what it means to be in 4-h.
   • Keep a blog or diary on the activities you participate in along with any “feel-good” moments you have while working with the younger kids.
   • Write down any memories and thoughts you have about your time in 4-h, good or bad and any suggestions for improvements to the program.