



# Horse Project



Monthly Lesson Plan



March 2022

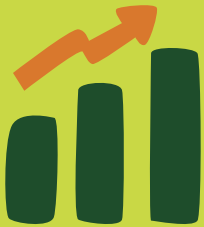
## Upcoming Deadlines

- ✓ April 26th 2022: Horse Helmet Clinic- mandatory for new horse members
- ✓ May 1st 2022: Owned/leased and ID in 4HOnline

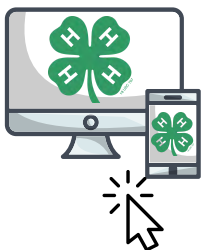


## Project Progress

Suggest the following as things your members should work on or accomplish with their project this month. Follow up to see which they achieved:



1. **E Record Books:** Download the 2022 Horse Record book for their age and complete the front page and Goals page
2. **Hands On:** Practice showmanship skills this month. See pg. 98 of the 4-H Horse Project Manual for showmanship tips.
3. **Knowledge:** Learn the parts of the saddle this month. See pg. 104 & 110 of the 4-H Horse Project Manual for saddle parts.
4. **Other:** Review project requirements listed on the Project Tipsheets
5. **Other:** Update your calendar with 2022 Animal Project Dates



## Opportunities

See 4-H Calendars for full details & more recently added events

- Sun. Feb. 26 - 4-H Horse Tack & Livestock Equip. Sale- Boulder County 4-H
- Sun. Mar. 27 - Boulder County Open Horse Show
- Coming Soon! - ADCO 4-H Horse Online Purpose Games - Knowledge Games
- March 17 - Virtual Record Book Workshop





# Horse Project



March 2022

## Attached Activities

Use these suggested activities at club project meetings to increase member knowledge and keep members engaged in their project.

### Group: Tack Cleaning (Pony Club Lesson Plan)

- Winter is a great time to clean tack before the riding season starts full swing. This activity helps you guide the lesson of cleaning tack.

### Individual: 4-H Horse Activity Page

- a. This activity page can be completed by horse members at home and will help to review/learn information and begin to plan for their upcoming 4-H year.

\*for more Horse project activities, order the National 4-H Curriculum "Horse Project Helpers Guide" through the 4-H Office\*



## Fun Fact

Arabian horses have less bones than other horses! Arabians have one less rib, one fewer lumbar vertebra, and occasionally a missing tail bone which accounts for their shorter length.



## Timely Tips to Share

Snow on the ground can lead to ice balls under your horse's hooves. These are less likely to occur if members leave their horse's barefoot during the winter and they pick hooves regularly. Horses who are shod in winter can have snowball pads added by the farrier to prevent snow buildup.



## Resources



- The following & more can be found on the ADCO 4-H Horse Project Webpage: <https://adams.extension.colostate.edu/4-h-youth/4-h-horse-project/>
  - 2022 Animal Project Save the Dates
  - Horse Project Manual (CSU)
  - E Record Books
  - Fourcast Newsletter Signup
  - Project Tipsheet
- 4-H Horse Facebook & Instagram –
  - FB: "ADCO Horse Program"
  - Insta: adco\_horseprogram



4-H Agent - Kenzie Kimmel  
303-637-8109 / [kkimmel@adcogov.org](mailto:kkimmel@adcogov.org)



4-H Horse Superintendent - Bill Acklin -  
[wacklin\\_cowboy@hotmail.com](mailto:wacklin_cowboy@hotmail.com)



ADAMS COUNTY  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

## TACK CLEANING

**Instructor:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Club/Center:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Region:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Topic:</b> Learn reasons and steps for cleaning and caring for tack	<b>Level/Certificate:</b> D-1/D-2
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<b>Class Size:</b> 4-6	<b>Time:</b> 40-60 minutes (allowing for time to take bridles apart and put them back together!)
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**Objective:** Students will be able to explain why they need to keep their tack clean & the steps to accomplish it

<p><b>Equipment Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• samples of dirty tack and supple, clean tack</li> <li>• samples of rotten stitching</li> <li>• students' bridles</li> <li>• several small sponges, small buckets with warm water, leather cleaner, leather conditioner, leather protector, table, small plastic containers for conditioner, 1" foam paintbrushes, small rags, toothbrushes, toothpicks, sponges</li> <li>• "Tack Care" handout</li> </ul>	<p><b>References:</b></p> <p>USPC D Manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, pg 268-272          USPC Horse Management Handbook</p>
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<p><b>Safety Concerns:</b></p> <p>Not damaging working surface or being messy</p>	<p><b>Safety Check:</b></p> <p>Medical bracelet/armband          Appropriate footwear</p>
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### Lesson Procedure

**1. Introduction of Self/Students**

*"Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a \_\_\_ member from \_\_\_\_\_ Pony Club or Riding Center. I would like to go around the room, and have each of you tell me your name, certification, and a hobby or something that you enjoy doing in addition to riding."*

As the students do this, hand a name tag to anyone who has not already taken one. Repeat the names.

**2. Verbalize Objective of Lesson**

*"Today I would like to discuss with you the importance of cleaning your tack, and the steps that you will be taking in the process of caring for your tack."*

### 3. Ask Prior Knowledge of Topic:

*“Before we get started, let’s talk a little bit about tack. What is tack?”*

[Sample answers: bridle, saddle, pads, girth, bit, boots]

*“How often do you clean your bridle and bit?”*

[Possible answers: once a day, once a week, once a month]

*“How often do you clean your saddle?”*

[Similar responses]

*“Who can give me an example of something that can cause your tack to be ruined?”*

[Call on several. Possible answers: Sweat, dirt, dust, mold/mildew, excessive water, rain, excessive heat, chewed by animals]

### 4. Demonstrate/Discussion:

*“There are several reasons for cleaning your tack. Obviously, clean tack looks better and more professional than dirty tack! Perhaps more important, though, cleaning your tack will contribute to its longevity, or how long it will last. Another important aspect of cleaning your tack is that going through the procedure gives you the opportunity to examine the condition of your tack, and when something might need to be repaired or replaced.*

*Keep in mind the following:*

- *Sweat- can rot your stitching and dry out your leather*
- *Dirt – can make the leather rough and harsh on your hands and your pony’s skin*
- *Dampness, especially with poor ventilation—can cause mold and mildew to grow on, and into, your leather*
- *Excessive heat- can make the leather dry out and crack*
- *Dirty bits—are uncomfortable to the pony’s mouth*

*Remember that dirty, dried-out, or cracked leather is uncomfortable to you and your pony, and that dried-out and cracked leather is prone to breakage.*

*I have some samples here of clean, supple leather, and of dry and cracked leather. I am going to pass around these \_\_\_\_\_ [stirrup leathers or whatever you have brought to demonstrate] as well as this \_\_\_\_\_ [whatever you have brought to demonstrate] showing stitching that is coming out, possibly due to rotting. Please notice the difference between the feel, and the flexibility, or suppleness, of the dried-out leather and the well-cared-for leather.”*

### 5. Application of the activity: (30 minutes)

*“Thank you for bringing your bridles today. Now that you understand how important it is to keep your tack clean, we will take apart your bridles and clean, condition and protect all the pieces. Please take a handout on Tack Care. [pass out the handout “Tack Care”] I will demonstrate and explain the steps—clean, condition, and protect as we go along. First you need to take apart your bridles, and keep all of the parts together” [depending on the set-up of the room, and the number of students, you may consider passing out a paper grocery sack to each of them so they can keep their “parts” together].*

[The following is from the handout]:

*“The three steps, again, in cleaning tack, are **Cleaning, Conditioning, and Protecting**. There are different products available for each step.*

- Cleaning should be the first step if the tack is dirty. [demonstrate the cleaning as you talk]
- Some good cleaners are: Lexol Cleaner, Kirk's Castile Soap, LeatherCare, and Ivory Soap.
- Glycerin Soap or Glycerin Saddle Soap is NOT a soap for cleaning! We will discuss those later.
- Try not to use too much water as you apply the soap. Too many suds means too much water, and this can dry out your tack. A toothbrush can help with difficult areas and a Q-tip to clean out holes.
- Use a slightly damp sponge to wipe the soap off your leather. Again, too much water, or not removing the soap, can both dry out the leather. You can use toothpicks to reach areas you can't.
- Conditioning is the second step, which helps to keep your leather soft and supple, and helps to prevent cracking
- There are several different brands of tack oil/conditioner
- If oil is needed, use a 1" to 2" foam paintbrush to apply in thin layers to the rough side of the leather, then work it in by hand [demonstrate gently bending and rolling of leather]
- Use oil sparingly. You can ruin your tack by making it soggy
- Protecting the leather, which is the same as "sealing" the pores of the leather is the last step in cleaning. Common protectors are bar glycerin soap, Fiebing's Saddle Soap, Belvoir Glycerin. They are called "soaps" but they will not clean your leather! They protect and nourish the leather. Do not apply oil after applying the protectant, as it will not be absorbed, and it will make the saddle look dull and absorb dirt.
- Once you have finished with all three steps, you can put your bridles back together. Let me know if you need help.

**6. Additional Ideas if time allows:** There will probably not be extra time; the students will need help putting the bridles back together and maybe name the bridle parts. Circulate around the students to see who needs help. If there is extra time, review the cleaning hints on the handout.

### **7. Conclusion:**

*"Who can tell me the three steps in cleaning tack? (clean, condition, protect)*

*Can anyone give me one reason why it is important to clean you tack? (looks better, feels better, will last longer, and it gives you the opportunity to give it a close inspection for safety).*

*Today you have cleaned, conditioned and protected your bridle, so now check your saddle and other leather horse equipment such as a leather halter to see if they need care. Keep this handout as a guide to cleaning, and to help you purchase the supplies that you need. The better you take care of your tack, the longer it will last!*

*Does anybody have any questions? [address the questions]*

*Thanks for your nice clean tack!"*

## Tack Care

Good tack, when properly cared for and fitted, can give many years of service. The process of cleaning tack can be broken down into three stages.

1. **Cleaning** - If tack is dirty (use a sponge and cleaner to remove dirt). Care should be taken not to allow the soap to foam - this indicates the use of too much water, which will dry out the leather. The tack is then rinsed off with a slightly damp sponge to remove the cleaning agent, which is too harsh to be left on the saddle or bridle. Some good cleaners are: Lexol Cleaner, Castile Soap (Kirk's), LeatherCare, Ivory Soap.
2. **Conditioning** - Leather should be soft and supple, with no cracks, and should not squeak while you're riding. If oil is needed, use a 1" to 2" paintbrush to apply in thin layers to the "flesh" or rough side of the leather, then work the leather by hand, bending it back and forth as well as rolling. The heat from your hands will help the leather soak up the oil or conditioner. Don't go overboard - condition your leather gradually!
3. **Protecting** - Bar glycerin soap is the traditional choice of protection, since it will seal the pores of the leather to protect and nourish it. It acts as a type of raincoat for the leather, but does not clean it. If oil is applied after this step the leather will be duller, lacking polish, and the oil will not get into the fibers of the inner layers of the leather, because they have been sealed. Some good protectors: bar glycerin soap, Fiebing's Saddle Soap, Belvoir Glycerin.

Other cleaning hints:

- Bits, stirrup irons, and spurs should be cleaned by soaking them in warm water and scrubbing them with a pot scrubber or steel wool. These all-metal items may also be put into the dishwasher to be cleaned. For a special shine, polish them with metal polish (except for the mouthpiece of the bit), and buff them with a clean, dry rag or paper towel.
- Washable saddle pads, girths, and girth covers should be laundered once a week. Don't use bleach, and be sure to rinse them thoroughly. Bleach or soap left in a pad can mix with the pony's sweat and irritate his skin

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The Kentucky Horse Park, 4041 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511-8483  
859/254-7669 (PONY) Fax 859/233-4652 email: [uspc@ponyclub.org](mailto:uspc@ponyclub.org)

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# 4-H HORSE ACTIVITY PAGE

Developed by **Melody Noah**, Volunteer Leader, Robertson County

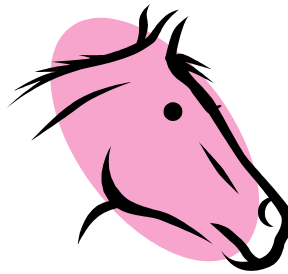
Beginning

## Your 4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE—HORSE Project



When you work with horses, you have to make many important decisions. To make the best decisions, you have to know about your horse and what your horse needs. This project can help. Some of the skills you can learn and activities you can do in this project are listed below. Check your favorites. Then, work with your 4-H leaders and parents to make a 4-H project plan of what you want to do and learn this year.

- Learn horse safety rules.
- Learn the parts of a horse.
- Learn how to groom a horse.
- Learn the most common horse colors.
- Learn the types of horse markings.
- Learn the parts of the saddle and bridle.
- Learn what a horse eats.
- Show your horse at a local horse show.
- Complete a service project using horse skills learned.
- Give a horse project demonstration in the 4-H club meeting.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_



Life Skill

Ethical Decision Making

## My Favorite Horse

Do you have a horse? If not, is there a particular breed of horse that you would like to own? In your 4-H project folder, write about your favorite horse breed. You may need to get in contact with the breed association, for example, the American Quarter Horse Association. Draw a picture of your horse and make sure that you color the horse. What is the major use of the breed of horse you selected?

## Service Ideas

- Volunteer at a riding program for disabled children and adults.
- Volunteer to feed horses while a friend or neighbor is out of town.
- Volunteer to clean stalls and/or tack for a local stable.
- Make an exhibit about West Nile Virus and display it in a public place.

## Check Your Tack



Tack includes all the equipment you need to care for and ride your horse. In your 4-H project folder, make a list of the tack you might need for your horse. For example, a saddle, bridle, blanket, brushes, combs, etc. Be specific. Check your tack for safety often by looking for cracked or dry-rotted straps and reins. Check the cinch for rust. To maintain, clean tack after each use.

## Try This—Make a Healthy Horse Treat

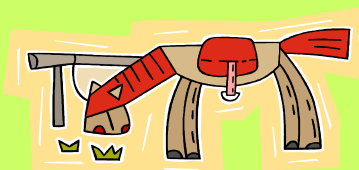
Ingredients Needed:

- 7 c. sweet feed
- 2 - 12 oz. jars dark molasses
- 1/2 c. water
- 2 1/2 cups flour

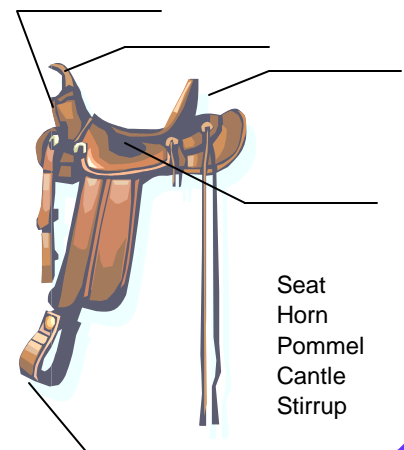
1. Mix the first three ingredients, then stir in the flour.
2. Coat muffin tin with vegetable oil or non-stick spray.
3. Press dough down into muffin tin.

4. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until dark brown.

Allow to cool. Cover the bottom of a foil pie pan with a thin layer of hay. Place one or two treats on top of the hay. Feed the treat to your horse, or give a healthy horse treat to a friend's or neighbor's horse.



## Label the Parts of the Saddle



Seat  
Horn  
Pommel  
Cantle  
Stirrup

## 4-H HORSE ACTIVITY PAGE

### Parts of Horse Word Scramble

Unscramble the words below. Then use the circled letters to spell the word that means "the study of horses."

zuzlem \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_

lolp ○ \_\_\_\_\_

upocr \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_

ilat \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_

koch ○ \_\_\_\_\_

ofoh \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_

ginkas ○ \_\_\_\_\_

nnnaco \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_

The study of horses is called

\_\_\_\_\_ y

Write the definition of each word in your 4-H horse project folder.

**New Words:**  
cannon  
muzzle

**New Words:**  
croup  
gaskin  
poll

### Career Scavenger Hunt

By asking others, researching on the Internet or reading a book or magazine—search for a job that uses horse skills and knowledge. Here's what you are looking for.

1. Job Title \_\_\_\_\_
2. Job Description \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Education Required \_\_\_\_\_

### Horse Safety Rules

- \* Approach a horse near its shoulder so it can see you.
- \* Never approach a horse from directly behind. That is a blind spot.
- \* Never stand directly behind a horse.
- \* Don't run or yell. You could spook a horse.
- \* Always use a quick-release knot when tying a horse.
- \* Always wear shoes with a heel so your foot won't slip through the stirrups.
- \* Always wear an approved safety helmet when riding.

### Other 4-H Horse Activities



Horse Project Groups  
4-H Horse Bowl  
4-H Hippology Contest  
4-H Horse Judging  
Horse Shows  
Summer Fun Stops  
4-H Demonstrations and Exhibits

### Additional Resources

Making decisions is an important part of the horse project. This activity sheet has given you the opportunity to explore things to think about as you make decisions in the horse project. You've made a healthy horse treat, learned some of the parts of a horse and identified your breed of horse. But this is just the beginning! Use the resources listed below to continue learning about horses.

- School & public libraries
- People who know about horses and horse care
- Horse Industry Handbook (in your county 4-H office)
- 4-H horse project groups
- Horse magazines
- The 4-H horse Web page:  
<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/projects/horse.htm>
- Horse books:
  - *The Horse* by J. Warren Evans
  - *Horses and Horsemanship* by M.L. Ensminger
  - *Feeding & Care of the Horse* by Ron D. Lewis

For more ideas,  
contact your  
4-H office.

Don't forget  
to submit your  
project report to  
your 4-H leader.

Reviewed by Doyle Meadows, Professor, Steve McNeil, Sumner County, and members of the state 4-H Youth Development staff  
Edited by Lori Jean Mantooth, Extension Assistant, and Wanda Russell, Publications Editor