

ORSE BITS

THE 4-H HORSE PROGRAM

The time of year is again upon us, to decide what our projects will be for the upcoming year and marking our calendars for all those important deadlines: district/state shows, county fair, animal I.D.s, demonstrations . . . For those involved in, or thinking of becoming involved in the 4-H horse project, one of your first responsibilities will be to make yourself aware of those deadlines. You can easily do this by checking the NEBLINE monthly calendar. But remember, your work will need to begin far earlier than the calendar deadline.

The primary aim of this project is to develop confident, competent, caring individuals who have good character, and are connected to their communities. Through the horse project, you will develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, and sportsmanship. While working with your project animal, you will experience pride, responsibility, and the respect of your mount.

You also will develop a greater love for and a more humane attitude toward animals. Horse project members appreciate horseback riding as a beautiful and wholesome form of recreation. You will acquire skills in horsemanship, patience, and understanding in handling horses. You will develop safety precautions . . . finally; participation in the horse project will help prepare you for citizenship responsibilities as you work together in groups and support community horse projects and activities. (from the *Nebraska 4-H Horse Project Member Manual*)

I believe by participating in 4-H, taking care of, and training your project horse(s), the above project goals will be easily achieved. Ride often, pay attention to your horse, pay attention to your leader or ring practice instructor. Learn about horsemanship levels and study to achieve a higher level of horsemanship. Organize and do community service projects. Participate in speech contests and demonstrations.

Make yourself aware of the rules of the project. Get a 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide and read the regulations for the classes that interest you.

And now. . . back to the deadlines! Remember, it is your responsibility to know and meet deadlines for different projects. If you are an independent club member, you are responsible to get the information you need to participate in 4-H events. Make sure you watch your NEBLINE calendar. For those in organized clubs, remember your leader will *try* to remind you of upcoming deadlines and *try* to help you fill out paperwork, but ultimately, it is still *your own responsibility*. Check your NEBLINE calendar monthly and ask your leader questions if there is something you don't understand, or call the extension office.

Participation in the county fair, district/state shows, demonstrations, and contests can be a really fun and memorable experience for exhibitors. But in the end, the *project* will make a real difference in our youth. Parents and leaders: Let's not forget the project.

2001 Horsin' Around Horse Clinic

This year's Horsin' Around Horse clinic will be held at the Animal Science Complex at UNL's East Campus on February 10 and 11. This two day event will have three featured speakers.

Scott McCutcheon of Whitesboro, Texas specializes in training and raising some of the most successful reining horses in the country. Scott knows how to train a horse to perform challenging maneuvers that require an enormous amount of physical energy while maintaining a horse's natural quiet disposition. Scott will focus not only on reining horses, but will share methods to train and refresh horses for all types of riding.

Dr. Del Wilmont who has served as the Deputy State Veterinarian for the Nebraska Department of Agriculture since 1988 will discuss "Why do we need a health certificate?" on Sunday. Dr. Wilmont previously ran a solo equine practice in Grand Island and had worked as the track veterinarian at Fonner Park for two racing seasons. Phillip Fisher, certified journeyman farrier, has been an active member of the Midwest Farrier's Association and the American Farrier's Association since 1981. Phil is an AFA approved certification tester and currently serves as the Vice President of the AFA. Phil shoes all types of horses with an emphasis on shoeing for soundness in western performance and pleasure horses.

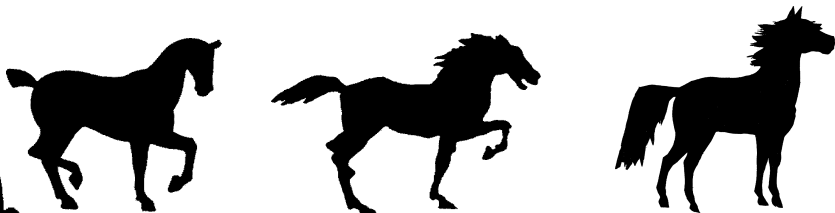
For information or a registration form, please call the extension office and ask for Ellen.

Roping Clinic

A Roping Clinic will be held on Saturday, January 13, 1 p.m., at the Brad and Susan Frink arena, 5505 NW 112th. Cliff Herman will be a presenter at the clinic. Also assisting will be the College Roping Team.

Everyone is welcome!

If you have any questions, please call Ellen at 441-7180.

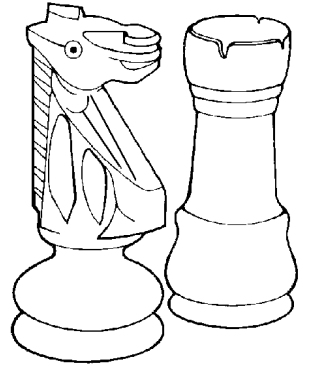


4-H & Youth



Interested in Chess?

Interest has been expressed in starting a 4-H Chess Club for youth 9 to 18. Playing chess helps develop critical thinking and organizational skills. If you are interested, please call Lorene at 441-7180. With enough interest, a project will be developed and a club organized. (LB)



4-H Volunteer Forum

The Nebraska State 4-H Volunteer Forum will be held February 2 and 3, 2001 in North Platte and March 30 and 31, 2001 in Columbus. This forum is a conference developed by a committee of 4-H volunteers from across the state. Network with other 4-H leaders, exchange successful 4-H programs among 4-H leaders, and be introduced to new areas and projects. There will be numerous workshops, hands-on learning experiences, and new ideas and programs designed to enhance your club. Anyone interested in 4-H is welcome to attend. Scholarships are available through the 4-H Council. For more information, please contact Tracy at 441-7180. (TK)

Help Families— Save Pop Tabs

Nebraska 4-H Youth Council is again collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Omaha, which was opened in 1994. It provides a home to families whose children, 18 years and younger, are receiving medical care in the Omaha area. The families are asked to pay just \$7.50 per night. This fee, however, does not pay for all of the operating costs of the house, therefore, the Ronald McDonald House recycles pop tabs and the proceeds are used to offset operating costs.



To be a part of this on-going community service project, bring your pop tabs to the Lancaster County Extension Office. (TK)

Join the 4-H Speech VIPS

We are looking for new speech VIPS members. If you would like to help organize and conduct the Lancaster County 4-H speech contest, call Deanna or Tracy at 441-7180. (DK/TK)

