

HORSE BITS

Budgeting For The Expense Of Horse Ownership

A person considering buying a horse for the first time usually begins by considering the purchase price of the horse. The next consideration goes to the housing and pasturing of the animal. But, as is typical of many hobbies, the greatest expenses are from "all the little things." Prospective horse owners should acquaint themselves with the associated costs of horse ownership before buying. The types of costs will vary because of the diversity of horse uses and ways horses are managed. People using pasture will have large differences in the types of costs involved with feeding a horse and with labor costs. There will be large differences if you are boarding your horse at a commercial stable. Keeping that in mind, a study was done in Oklahoma in 1992 to look at the cost of owning a horse for a year. This study will give some insight into expenses we typically overlook.

Expenses were divided into operating and ownership categories. Operating costs involve day to day, mostly cash expenses. Ownership costs result from owning machinery, equipment, and the horse. From the study done by Oklahoma State University, it was determined that in 1992, operating costs were about triple ownership expenses. The average operating costs that year were \$1459.20 and ownership expenses \$534.57, for a total of \$1993.77 per year.

Used in determining **operating cost** were:

- The cost of *grain, grass hay, salt, and minerals*. A large horse will eat more grain, whereas a smaller horse on pasture would require less. There are numerous sources of minerals, vitamins, and supplements for horses at a wide range of costs, so everyone's feed costs will differ widely.
 - *Farrier costs* included trimming and shoeing the horse approximately every eight weeks at a cost of \$40 each time. Trimming is much less costly than shoeing and the need for shoeing depends on the type and location of activity and owner preference.
 - *Vet medicine* includes health care practices administered by the owners such as two of four scheduled dewormings with a commercially available dewormer product and medicines used for minor wound treatment. *Vet services* are non-injury related care administered by a veterinarian; vaccinations for encephalomyelitis, tetanus, and rabies; two coggins tests and health certificates each year. As with other categories, the amount spent on health care varies among horse owners depending on the frequency of scheduled exams, deworming, and vaccinations.
 - *Horse related utilities* including water, heating, and electricity should be taken into consideration as they consume about \$75.00 per year.
 - *Tack, bedding, entry fees, travel expenses, horse training, rider training, and labor* are all cost items.
 - *Machinery and equipment fuel, maintenance, and repairs* include things such as a pickup, stock trailer, horse barn, fencing, feeding equipment, small tools, and tack.
- Ownership costs** include the cost of the horse itself (assuming the purchase of a 1100 pound horse at \$1445.00), and initial purchase of equipment and machinery. These were calculated using the purchase, salvage, and average investment values of the capital items and standardized rates for length of life, interest, taxes, and insurance. Most people own horses for hobby interests related to family and youth development, enhancement of the quality of life, or entertainment. Budgeting the cost of housing and care before buying a horse will help increase the level of enjoyment of horse ownership. (EK)

4-H & Youth

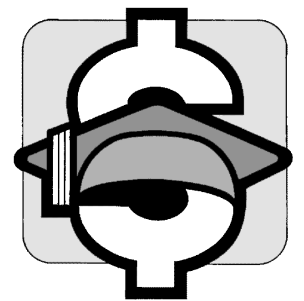


4-H CAN Fight Hunger

In an effort to fight hunger, Nebraska 4-H will be conducting a 4-H CAN Fight Hunger Campaign. The goal is collecting 4000 pounds of food. Collect donated food now until January 5, 2001 and donate it to a charity of your 4-H club's choice. You can also bring it to the extension office and we will donate it to the food pantry. Please report to Tracy the total weight of the food collected, the number of youth and adult volunteers, total volunteer hours, the agencies and/or groups who benefit from the food drive, and any publicity the project received. Call Tracy at 441-7180 for more information and for 4-H CAN Fight Hunger promotional material. (TK)

\$500 Scholarship Opportunity

The Nebraska Association of Fair Managers will be offering two \$500 scholarships to a 4-H boy and girl. The scholarship will be awarded to graduating seniors who are planning to continue their post-high school education. If you would like to receive more detailed information about this scholarship, call Lorene Bartos at 441-7180. (LB)



The Photography themes for 2001 will be Unit II—This Place is a Zoo! Unit III—I've Been Framed!

2000 4-H Teen Council Officers



President - Megan Bergman
Vice President - Kathleen Arends
Secretary - Connie Lemke



Treasurer - Jami Rutt
Historians - Caleb Bucham and Rachel Rentschler

If you would like to become a member of 4-H Teen Council, call Tracy at 441-7180. (TK)

Volunteer Profile

The Lancaster County 4-H Council has endorsed the state mandated 4-H Leader/Volunteer Qualification process, coordinated through the State 4-H Office. 4-H leaders and volunteers are required to complete the Personnel Information Sheet in the Volunteer Profile booklet and covered by \$1 million of liability coverage through the University of Nebraska. If you're working with youth in the 4-H program and haven't already filled out the form, please fill it out and return it to the extension office. As new leaders are designated this year, they also need to complete the form. Forms are available at the extension office.

The Personnel Information Sheets are sent to the State 4-H Office. The background checks will be conducted by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. This same procedure is being used by numerous youth-serving groups across the state. On the extremely rare chance that the background check is red flagged, persons will be contacted by Dr. Gary Heusel, State 4-H Leader. **THANKS** for your participation and cooperation! (LB)