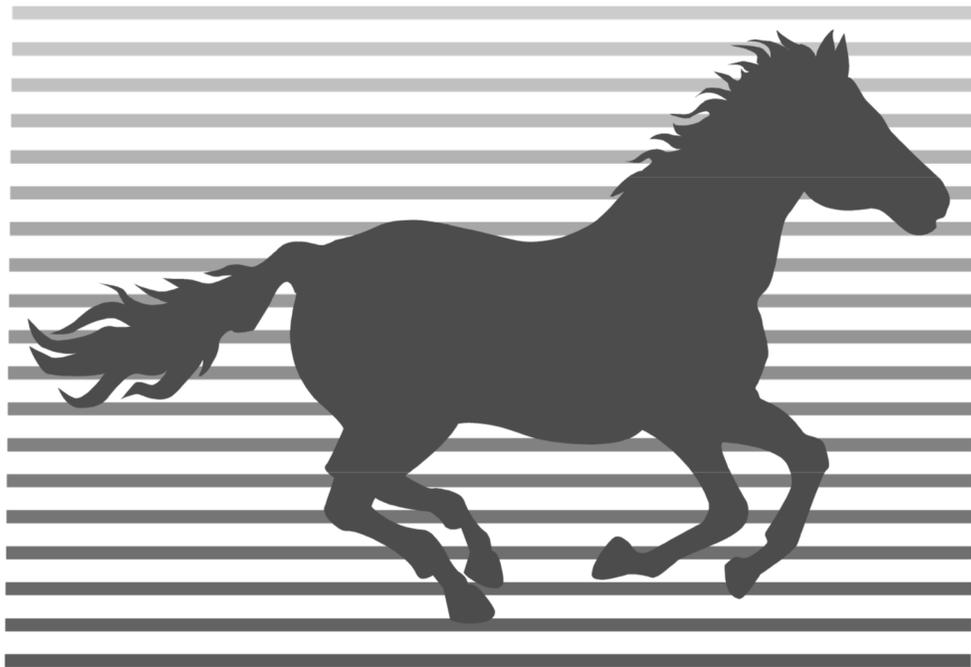


# Owyhee County

## 4-H



# Horses are Fun!

## Project Book



**A horse-less project for horse-minded kids!**

**INTRODUCTION.** Have you always loved horses, but haven't had the opportunity or good fortune to have a horse of your own? Even if you were fortunate enough to secure a horse of your own, are you without a place to keep or ride your horse? Or possibly, did you sign up with a project horse and it is unable to complete the year? Then maybe "Horses are Fun" is the next best project for you to complete!

Through this horse-less 4-H project, you will:

1. Learn how to choose a worthy mount for yourself by participating in horse judging;
2. Learn about the costs involved in owning a horse by researching and keeping accurate records;
3. Learn how to care for and show a horse by attending club riding meetings;
4. Learn how to give a demonstration or illustrated talk;
5. Participate in Level 1 Ranch Horse project, and,
6. Have the opportunity to help out at the Owyhee County 4-H Horse Fair.

By participating in the "Horses are Fun" project, you can become knowledgeable about the horse you have dreamed of and make plans for your future in the horse world! If this sounds like something you are excited to take on, put on your boots, screw down your hat, and get ready to "ride"—'cuz...."Horses are Fun", partner!

### OVERVIEW OF PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for the "Horses are Fun" project will be very close to the 4-H "Horse" project, with modifications made only to areas of the project which cannot be completed without a horse. This project is designed to serve any 4-H horse club member from 8-19 years old.

"Horses are Fun" members will:

- Turn in "Boundary Exception Forms" by February 1 (if member lives outside Owyhee County boundaries)
- Enroll with the County Extension by March 1
- Attend a minimum of 6 club meetings
- Learn Horse Safety rules
- Be eligible to participate in:
  - ◊ County Horse Judging
  - ◊ Demonstrations
  - ◊ Horse Phase Evaluations
- Demonstrate knowledge of showing a horse at halter (*with or without animal*)
- Complete the 4-H Horse Project Record Book
- Be eligible for ribbons and awards in:
  - ◊ Demonstrations
  - ◊ Horse Judging

- ◊ Phase Evaluations
- ◊ Record Books
- ◊ Sportsmanship
- ◊ Most Inspirational Senior
- ◊ Ranch Horse Dummy Roping (Level One)

- Pay the same dues and fees as their mounted partners
- Participate in the County Fair as a Ring Steward or Runner (as directed by the Horse Superintendent)
- Assist other club members at the Fair by helping to clean stalls, feed and water club horses
- Be introduced during the Grand Entry at the Fair
- Be recognized at the 4-H Horse Awards program at the Fair
- Be eligible to receive the 4-H certificate and seal for successful completion of the "Horses are Fun" project

### WHAT COMES FIRST?

**County Horse Judging** - Your 4-H Horse Club will be gearing up for Horse Judging, because it is the first horse event of the Owyhee County Horse Program. Before you head out for the Horse Judging, you will learn:

- The parts of a horse, so that you can learn to compare one animal to another;
- Desirable structure of the horse, and undesirable traits;
- How to place a class of 4 horses and mark the judging card;
- How to organize and give oral reasons to defend your placings.

### WHAT COMES NEXT?

**County Demonstrations or Illustrated Talks** - As soon as Horse Judging is over, the attention turns to fine-tuning your demonstration. Public speaking is a skill that will benefit the member many times in the future. To prepare for your Demonstration (showing how to do something) or your Illustrated Talk (telling how to do something, or telling about a subject with the use of posters or props), you will first choose a subject. From there, you will learn to:

- Research your subject
- Plan to present your talk in an introduction, body, and summary
- Choose a "catchy" title

- Practice, practice, practice!!
- Smile, project your voice, and make eye contact with the judge

**AND THEN COMES . . . Horsemanship Phase Evaluations** - The Phase Evaluations are held in July, and are used to measure the progress each Horse member has made from year to year. You will need to bring your Phasebook, and the Phase Evaluator will ask you questions based on the items you have checked off in your book. You will receive a score based on what you, as an individual, have accomplished during your project year. Everything that you need to know to participate in the Phase Evaluations is in your Horsemanship Phase book.

**AND THEN . . . Horse Record Book** - The horse record book is due two weeks before the Fair at Record Book Day. Each member will have an interview with a record book judge, and will receive a score, which is added to the score that the member's record book will receive. The horse record book has been designed to accommodate the "regular" horse members AND the "Horses are Fun" members. Since the revised record book is "all new" to most members, a detailed explanation of modifications is included for you.

**GUIDE TO MODIFICATIONS FOR 4-H HORSE PROJECT RECORD BOOK** - The horse record book is just one small part of the activities that the member will enjoy in the "Horses are Fun" project. At first glance, it may appear to be "a lot of writing", but is the same book that all horse project members will complete. The biggest difference is the research you will do to make decisions for your "horse" project. The more accurate and complete your Record book is, the better chance you have to score well on your book.

Since "Horses are Fun" project record books will be judged side-by-side with the "regular" horse project record books, some minor modifications have been made. Before the member fills out any of the horse record book, there will need to be a certain amount of back ground work completed.

First, the member should decide what kind of horse they would like to "own" for their project for the year. Once this is decided, the member should "shop" for this horse, just as they would if they were planning to purchase the horse. Classified ads, sale barns, and family friends are valid sources to find a reasonable "price" for the horse.

Next, the member will need a photograph of a horse they *would like to own*, or a picture of a horse cut from a magazine. It should be a full-length shot of the horse, so that any markings can clearly be seen on all four legs.

Once the member has "purchased" their horse, they may begin to fill out the horse project record book. To make the horsemanship Phasebook and the record book more "user-friendly", there are references to the "Horses are Fun" modifications listed in several sections of the Record book. Horse Project Record Book Modifications:

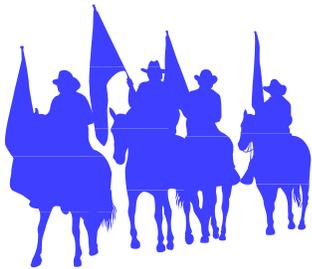
- Cover page: On the space that asks for a picture, you may place a picture of a horse you would *like* to own, or cut a picture from a magazine to attach. Under "*Date horse was acquired*", put the date that you started the "Horses are Fun" project.
- "Horse Identification", after you decide what you would *like* for your horse to look like, fill out the page just as if you were managing an actual horse. Under "*Breed*", if you don't choose to put a registered breed of horse, you can write "*Grade*", then write "*Unknown*" for "*Name of Sire/Dam*".
- "Horse's Health Record", you will need to list at least 3 items. The first item can be the required annual shots (*see Horse Leaders Guidelines and Rule Book*), but the other two items need to be researched treatments, prevention, or a treated injury. If you list a veterinarian under "who performed treatment", it should be an actual vet that you *would have used*, if you had an actual project horse.
- "4-H Training and Riding Record", you will list hours for "Training" and "Pleasure" that you *estimate* you *would* be riding to prepare for the county fair. (Your leader can help you with this.) Time spent at riding meetings can also be included under "Training". For the "Work" column, you will estimate ½ hour per day to feed, water, and care for your horse. If you help a neighbor at a branding, or other horse-related work, it can also be included. The "Research" column is to list time spent researching costs, visiting a veterinarian's clinic, a farrier (one who shoes horses), saddle shop, feed store, etc., to complete your record book.

- “Horses and Equipment Inventory” page will take some leg work on your part. You may check the classified ads for your saddle or horse, but your selection needs to be consistent throughout the record book with the horse you have listed in your “Horse Identification” on page 2. For the other items listed, you can shop for prices at a local farm or feed store.
- “Expense Record” will help you to understand the actual costs of owning and caring for a horse. You will need to do your homework to accurately complete this page. First, decide where you will keep your “horse” (your 4-H Leader can help you with this. Below are some suggestions to get you started):
  - ◇ If your “horse” will be stalled at a “stable” (or “Equine Bed & Breakfast”), you may shop around and find out where an actual stable is that you would plan to use if you had an actual horse of your own; what the cost is per month; and find out what is included in that price (and what is *NOT* included). If you choose to keep your horse at a stable, you may research the causes and prevention of “cribbing” in horses. (See *“Horses and Horse Science”*.) Also, estimate your travel costs if it would be necessary to drive to the stable to exercise your horse daily.
  - ◇ **OR**, if you plan to “pasture” your “horse”, you may check the classified ads to price pasture costs. Remember to decide what supplements your horse will need, and research salt and mineral costs if the horse is on pasture. If you choose to pasture your horse, study the causes of “grass founder” and how to prevent it. (See *“Horses and Horse Science”*.)
  - ◇ **OR**, if you choose to “dry lot” your “horse”, and “feed it yourself”, you may estimate how much feed your horse will need (at least 25 lbs. per day on the average). Hay is sold by the ton or by the bale. There is a big difference in price—research it. Also, compare alfalfa hay to grass hay—find out the price for each. Research and decide which kind of hay you think is healthier for your horse. Decide if you want to feed grain to your horse, and research why you *would*, or would *not* want to feed grain. If you choose to “dry lot” your horse (which means no vegetation growing in the pen), you may want to study the causes and prevention of “sand colic” and “worms” in horses. (See *“Horses and Horse Science”*.)
- “Health” column, you will need to list actual costs for any items that you list on page 4 under “Horse’s Health Record”. The *“Horse Leader’s Guidelines”* lists eligibility requirements, including necessary vaccinations. These vaccinations will need to be listed, along with their cost. Research the “West Nile” vaccine, and decide if you want your horse to have it. If you decide to give the vaccine, find a cost for it and list it in this column. Most horses will need to have their hooves trimmed, or have shoes put on (or re-set) every 6-8 weeks. Contact a farrier to arrive at a reasonable figure for Shoeing, and record this in the “health” column. Other horse health maintenance items are horse dentistry and horse chiropractors. Find out more about these subjects, and decide if you would want to include them in your horse’s health care. If so, you will need to find out the cost for each visit.
- “Miscellaneous” column, you will need to include what it would cost you to haul your horse from where it is kept, to your 4-H meeting place and back. For easy figuring, you may use \$1 per mile as a flat figure.
- “Story,” be sure to remind the reader that you are enrolled in “Horses are Fun”, and that it is a horse-less project. Other than that—have fun writing about the adventures you have enjoyed in Horse 4-H this year!
- Attach any ads or newspaper clippings that you may have used to determine costs for your “Expense Record”. If you have business cards from the veterinarian, farrier, horse dentist, horse chiropractor, saddle shop or feed store, attach them on this page.
- Under “Important Telephone Numbers”, you will need to choose an actual veterinarian and farrier that you would use, if you had an actual horse. The “Rescue Squad” should be your actual local ambulance service. Your County Extension Educator is Scott Jensen, and the County Extension Office number is: 896-4104.
- Pages 15-16. This plan sheet is part of your record book only if you have a Green Horse Project. If you don’t you can remove it.

The record books are due on Record Book Day in July, so you will have plenty of time to work on your record book, along with attending your 4-H meetings and activities. Your 4-H leader will be there to support you and answer any questions or concerns you may have during the 4-H year.

### **AND WE'RE OFF TO THE OWYHEE COUNTY FAIR!**

Many 4-H Horse members arrive in Homedale at the Owyhee County Fairgrounds on Sunday to set up campers and get their horse stalls cleaned and decorated. Others arrive on Monday morning, ready to compete in Showmanship. The next class will be Trail/Obstacle Course, followed by Reining. In the evening, there will be Boxing and Working Cow Horse.



Tuesday arrives bright and early with the Grand Entry and Parade of Clubs. All 4-H Horse members, including Cloverbuds and "Horses are Fun" members will be recognized in the main arena. Tuesday continues

with Western Equitation, followed by Bareback Equitation and Western Riding. In the late afternoon, horse members will gather for the Horse Awards Program. For a full list of awards offered, see the "Owyhee County Horse Show Guidelines". On Tuesday evening, the Green Horse members will show their projects.

Wednesday morning finds Ranch Horse members catching their horses and coiling their ropes for a fun morning of displaying roping skills, branding teams, and sorting and penning cattle. "Horses are Fun" members will be allowed to participate in Ranch Horse, Level 1, "Dummy Roping", if they choose to enter. At the close of the Ranch Horse Awards, we will take down the tent on another successful year of the 4-H Horse Program in Owyhee County.

Hopefully, this "Horses are Fun" project will help you on your way to learning more about



**4-H,  
Horses,  
and FUN!**

