

Why Show Youth Equine?

Georgia 4-H uses all kinds of projects to accomplish our main objective - positive youth development! Equine projects are special because young people learn what it truly means to care for and be responsible for another living being. Youth learn time management, budgeting, record keeping skills and many animal husbandry skills. They also learn about the equine industry and its role in the larger agricultural economy.

Georgia 4-H believes there are four essential elements to positive youth development: Mastery, Generosity, Belonging and Independence. The 4-H Horse Program fosters all four elements. Attend a horse show and you cannot miss the sense of community. Maybe no other 4-H program demonstrates a sense of belonging like the livestock program. Youth build mastery as they practice and compete. Getting up early to feed and care for animals builds a "can do" attitude important for independence. How does one rightly describe generosity? The horse shows again offer fine examples - adults sharing what they know with youth with no thought to the competitive nature of the event, youth sharing supplies...generosity is everywhere.

We are excited that you are interested in joining this dynamic part of Georgia 4-H! This fact sheet is a start-up document. You will find county agents, UGA Specialists and friends of agriculture everywhere willing to help you take next steps.

The Basics of Raising Equine

Cost of Showing a Horse

Purchase of Horse: The purchase price of a horse is often the most affordable part and is dependent upon the project versus the level of competitiveness that you wish to achieve. Horses can cost thousands of dollars plus depending on breed, genetics, age, conformation, athletic ability, temperament, gender, experience, and level of training.

Leasing is another option and is usually made through private treaty/lease agreement.

Ownership or lease must be in place prior to March 1st of the competition year.

Stallions are not allowed in the 4-H Equine Program.

Feed: Horses eat approximately 2% of their body weight per day in grain and forages, and also require free access to clean water (10-20 gallons/day) and trace mineralized salt. Pastures should be inspected for noxious and dangerous weeds, trees, etc. before the horse is released to graze. For more information on an equine feeding regime, contact your local UGA Extension Agent. Reference Feeding Section below on Page 2.

Equipment: The animal will need a halter, lead rope, brushes, hook pick and other grooming supplies, blanket and saddle pad, saddle (type depends on the discipline), water and feed buckets, feed scale, and basic farrier tools.

The rider/exhibitor will need a helmet, boots, clothing that is appropriate for the discipline, and means of transportation are required (horse trailer or access to a professional hauler).

Farrier: Horses require the services of a professional farrier to maintain the balance and security of the horse's feet. Some horses are able to perform without shoes and some need corrective shoeing. In large part, this depends on the natural footing (ie: sand vs. rocks). Farrier costs range from \$25 for a trim to \$250 for corrective shoes. Horses should be shod every 4-6 weeks.

Facilities

Horses would benefit from a stall or shelter with a roof and protection from wind, horse-safe fencing (no barbed wire or high tensile wire), appropriate bedding with shavings (no black walnut) or wheat straw, and a quality pasture (recommended two acres per horse).

Boarding is also a common practice, and prices vary based on location and services provided. Pasture board runs from \$150-up and full board is \$450-up. Some facilities require the use of their trainer and will not allow outside trainers, so be sure to check ahead.

Boarding options include:

- Partial or Pasture Board – includes full turn out. Consider whether adequate feed and shelter are available.
- Full Board – the barn management provides the care, feed, and full facilities.
- Home Care – if pasture is expected to provide the majority of the horse's forage requirements, then 2-3 acres of grass pasture per horse is a minimum.

Training

Project members should plan on working with a qualified, discipline appropriate expert. This can improve performance, safety, and enjoyability. Cost usually ranges from \$30-60/hour.

Health

There are planned and unplanned expenses that go along with owning a horse.

- Appropriate deworming and external parasite control is necessary.
 - Worming -> 4x per year
 - Vaccines -> 2x per year
 - Coggins -> 1x
 - Dental -> 1x
- Coggins papers are mandatory for transporting horses. Health certificate is required for crossing state lines.
- Farrier services are necessary. No hoof, no horse.
- Routine trimming, horseshoes or specialty shoes/pads will be evaluated based on discipline and quality of hoof.

Consult a veterinarian to outline an appropriate health protocol for equine projects. They may also need additional health services such as equine dentist, chiropractor, etc.

Feeding

Free choice clean water, quality hay or pasture, 10-14% crude protein feed (depending on age/work/condition of horse) is the basis for feeding your horse. Mineral supplements may be necessary after the analysis of hay and feed. Feed horse to have and maintain a body condition score of a 5-6 and according to the class of the horse. Please consult your UGA Extension Agent for feed analysis and ration balancing.

Additional Opportunities – Horse Quiz Bowl, Horse Judging, Hippology, Horseman Books (Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced), State 4-H Horse Show, State 4-H Horse Educational Contests, State 4-H Horse School, Southern Regional Horse Championship, District Project Achievement, Breed Association activities.

- Refer to the Georgia 4-H State Horse Show Rulebook and always read show rules for any exhibition you are preparing to attend!
- Complete and mail entries with payment, and be sure your forms are signed by your county agent!
- Complete Code of Conduct and Medical Info & Release Forms and turn them in to your county agent for the Georgia 4-H State Horse Show!

Additional Resources – The following links can be accessed and utilized for more information regarding shows, contests, clinics, care for your project, scholarship opportunities and more!

Georgia 4-H Livestock Program's Horse Webpage: <http://georgia4h.org/livestock/horse/default.htm>

Annett Farms – 4-H Fit/Showmanship: http://www.annettfarms.com/html/4-h_fit_showmanship.html

North Carolina State University Equine Nutrition & Body Scoring: <http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/21286.pdf>

North Carolina State University Managing Pastures to feed your Horses: <http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/21285.pdf>

North Carolina State University Horse Feeding Management – Water Intake, etc.: <http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/21284.pdf>

North Carolina State University Horse Feeding- Nutrient Requirements for Horses: <http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/21283.pdf>

Horse Channel's Grooming Guide: <http://www.horsechannel.com/media/horse-keeping/grooming-guide.aspx.pdf>

Horse Show Grooming – How to shine like a champion in the ring: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/Stanislaus4-H/files/135197.pdf>

EquiWorld's Housing the Horse - <http://www.equiworld.net/stabling/housing.htm>

Georgia 4-H State Horse Show Rulebook: http://georgia4h.org/livestock/horse/horse_show.html

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