Georgia 4-H Project Achievement empowers young people with skills for a lifetime. Through a competitive process, students explore their interests, unleash their creativity, share their work, and celebrate their achievements! This guide provides 9th—12th graders with examples for getting started with their project exploration.

**Description of Project:**

4-H'ers may explore the equine industry including establishing and managing equine enterprises, owning and caring for horses, and the impacts of the industry. Through this project 4-H'ers may:

- learn about and acquire skills for selecting, breeding, feeding, handling, raising, managing, owning, exhibiting, and training of horses and ponies
- discover the industry’s current and historic roles, scope, contributions of science, environmental and societal impacts, and economic significance
- become familiar with tools, equipment, and safety protocols to protect self, others, and animals
- develop an understanding and appreciation of horseback riding
- understand the role of veterinary care of horses
- explore career opportunities related to the equine industry

**Examples of Project Development Experiences:**

- Attend horse schools/clinics/workshops, equine club meetings, horse sale, field days, horse shows, etc.
- Tour veterinary clinics, horse farms, feed stores, equestrian center, and/or boarding facilities
- Acquire and read books, trade magazines, pamphlets, and online media about the industry
- Raise and show a horse
- Participate in 4-H Horse Judging, 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl, and 4-H Hippology Contest
- Interview a Horse producer and discuss industry matters
- Shadow a veterinarian, farrier, and/or animal scientist and learn of job responsibilities

**Overview:**

- Choose project
- Develop skills in:
  - Project
  - Leadership
  - Service
- Prepare portfolio for work completed from January 1—December 31
- Prepare presentation
- Practice
- Compete
- Reflect
Project Sharing and Helping Examples:

- Volunteer as a teen leader and assist with coaching a horse judging team, horse quiz bowl, hippology team
- Hold a grooming demonstration for community members, schools, civic groups, etc.
- Host a show preparation seminar for interested youth
- Mentor a younger 4-H’er in showing a horse or pony
- Hold an equine feeding and management demonstration
- Start a horse/horseless project club and lead meetings to share your knowledge with others
- Arrange for industry speakers to discuss agricultural issues for community members
- Demonstrate your work through presentations and exhibits at schools, civic clubs, senior homes, chambers of commerce, etc.
- Write equine news articles, blogs, or social media posts
- Set up horse-related exhibits at fairs, libraries, or festivals
- Organize an agricultural tour or farm day for youth
- Teach riding to someone who would not otherwise have the opportunity
- Mentor a younger 4-H’er in the Horse project

Recommended Resources:

- georgia4h.org/ProjectAchievement
- georgia4h.org/livestock
- georgia4h.org/livestock/resources.htm
- extension.uga.edu/agriculture/animals
- agr.georgia.gov
- usda.gov/topics/animals
- georgiahorsecouncil.com
- usef.org
- aqha.com

Special Considerations:

- Actual animal exhibiting is not a requirement of this project.
- This project can address any issue related to the production of horses. Members may gain experience in a number of ways, such as assisting with the management of horses, raising horses, or studying marketing.
- Youth should practice internet safety. A best practice is to include a friend or parent in all communications and interactions.
- Be sure to gain land owner permission prior to entering someone else’s property.
- Exercise safety when handling tools, animals, and equipment.
- Live animals and weapons are not permitted in the presentation.

At Competition:

Horse 4-H projects may use posters, artifacts, biofacts, and/or technology to support their presentation. The time limit for presentations is 12 minutes. Computers, projectors, screens, and other technological devices may be used.

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