



## *Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Safety Program*

August 2003

The Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Safety Program was initiated and developed with input from leaders, agents, and 4-H members from throughout the state. The program will be further developed on an ongoing basis. An overview of the program to date is included.

### ❶ Objectives of the safety program

- \* Promote safety of youth while working with horses
- \* Promote safety awareness in youth, parents, leaders, and agents
- \* Provide safety resources and activities for participants
- \* Incorporate safety education within existing 4-H projects
- \* Recognize youth and leaders for safety achievements

### ❷ Program Components

- ◆ "Safety Packets" including safety resources for each county
- ◆ Educational programs and activities for youth and adults
- ◆ Horsemanship Skills Program
- ◆ Safety awards for youth, leaders and clubs

### ❸ Safety Packets, Part I

#### **Videos:**

*Ground Handling Horses Safely*

With Video Facilitator Guide and Lesson Plan

*Safe Horse Farm Operation*

With series of seven equine and farm safety fact sheets

#### **Text:**

*Safe Horse, Safe Rider*

#### **Booklet:**

*PA 4-H Horse Show Management Guidelines*

### ❹ Safety Packets, Part II

#### **Project Booklets:**

*Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Safety Standards*

*Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Safety Checklist*

#### **AYHC Publication:**

*Start with Safety: Horse Safety Guidelines*

#### **Booklet:**

*Fire Safety in Horse Stables*

#### **Emergency Contacts Card**

**4-H Horse Safety Resources** (updated annually)

At least one copy of each of the above items should be maintained in the county extension office and made available to leaders as needed. Materials that are not copyrighted may be duplicated as needed for local use.

### ⑤ **Horsemanship Skills Program**

A planned progression of skill development and assessment including educational materials and activities and for youth and volunteers. *See Horsemanship Skills Program on website for more details.*

- ▶ Level 1 emphasizes basic, correct and safe principles of handling and riding at the walk and trot.
- ▶ Level 2 further develops a foundation of skills, introduces the lope or canter and proper aids.
- ▶ Level 3 uses foundation skills to develop intermediate skills.
- ▶ Level 4 completes an advanced level of skills of a balanced, experienced horse and rider.

### ⑥ **4-H Horse Safety Standards and Checklist**

- ✓ Available from Penn State Publications through county extension office
- ✓ Helps 4-H member and family assess safety practices and set safety goals
- ✓ Used by 4-H member with parent, leader or project helper
- ✓ Can be used at home, with barn checks, club meetings, horse camps, clinics, etc.
- ✓ Activities should be done over period of several weeks, months or longer.
- ✓ Pages can be separated, used individually, then kept in a binder.

### ⑦ **Start with Safety: Horse Safety Guidelines**

- One copy should be maintained in county office.
- May be duplicated, compliments of the American Youth Horse Council.
- Additional copies may be ordered from:  
The Equine Collection: Dept. AYHC  
P.O. Box 1539 Fort Lee, NJ 07024-1539  
Nationwide: 800-952-5813 Fax at 201-840-4755  
<http://www.theequinecollection.com>

### ⑧ **Emergency Contact Card**

- ★ Should be completed and posted next to phone in home and barn.
- ★ One copy should be maintained in county office and duplicates made for county distribution.
- ★ The card is also on the web site, and may be downloaded for county or individual use.

### ⑨ **4-H Horse Safety References List**

- ❖ Updated list of safety resources and educational materials
- ❖ Many of these safety materials are also useful for the horsemanship skills program.
- ❖ Also available on the web site

### ⑩ **4-H Horse Safety Awards**

- ▶ Consider nominating individuals or clubs for 4-H Horse Safety Awards.
- ▶ Awards will be made at the PA 4-H Horse Forum at Penn State.
- ▶ Applications will be available on the web site or from your county extension office.

**Additional 4-H horse safety information is available on the web site at:**

[www.das.psu.edu](http://www.das.psu.edu) - click on horses, then 4-H horse program, then safety and horsemanship skills programs.

We hope this information will be helpful to you in conducting safety programming in your county. We are happy to work with you in local or regional safety training. If you have suggestions for the safety program, please contact your County Extension Agent or the Extension Horse Specialist.

***Thank you for your cooperation in making these safety resources available to 4-H leaders and members in your county!!***