



Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Safety Program

June 2009

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

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 of 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

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

Booklets:

Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Show Management Guidelines (updated 2009)

Fire Safety in Horse Stables

Project Booklets:

Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Safety Standards

Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Safety Checklist

Horses Safety and You – How to Work With and Around a Horse Safely

AYHC Safety Manual:

Start with Safety: Horse Safety Guidelines

Emergency Contacts Card

4-H Horse Safety Resources (updated annually)

The materials listed above are on the 4-H Horse Program website or available from the county extension office. At least one copy of each of the above items should be maintained in the county extension office and made available to leaders and youth as needed. Materials that are not copyrighted may be duplicated as needed for local use.

To contact your local Penn State Extension office go to: <http://agsci.psu.edu/> or <http://cas.psu.edu/directory/>

④ *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.

⑤ *4-H Horse Safety Standards and Checklist*

Available from Penn State Publications Distribution 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, and then kept in a binder.

⑥ *Start with Safety: Horse Safety Guidelines (AYHC Safety Manual)*

One copy should be maintained in county office.

May be duplicated, compliments of the American Youth Horse Council.

⇒ Additional copies may be ordered from:

American Youth Horse Council - <http://www.ayhc.com/> or 1-800-TRY-AYHC or

HorseBooksEtc.com - <http://horsebooksetc.com/>

⑦ *Horses Safety and You – How to Work With and Around a Horse Safely*

Available from Penn State Publications Distribution through county extension office

Information to enhance awareness and promote safety by informing participants of risks associated with equine activities and methods to minimize risks. Recommended for all families, youth and volunteers working with horse activities.

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 website, and may be downloaded for county or individual use.

⑨ *4-H Horse Safety References List*

List of safety resources and educational materials

Many of these safety materials are also useful for the horsemanship skills program.

⑩ *4-H Horse Safety Awards*

Individuals, groups or clubs are eligible for 4-H Horse Safety Awards.

Awards will be made at the 4-H Horse Forum or other state or regional 4-H horse event.

Applications are available on the website or from your county extension office.

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

www.das.psu.edu - go to 4-H programs, then horses, safety, and horsemanship skills.

We hope this information is helpful in promoting safety 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 Educator 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!