



# Kids n' Horses News

Howdy to all the 4-H Horse Project members in Kansas!

If you have not done your 4-H Horse Identification Form, NOW IS THE TIME TO Get IT DONE! The form can be found at: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animals/docs/horse/P1039%20Horse%20ID%20Form%20Fillable.pdf> Remember, it needs to be printed front and back of 1 piece of paper with a picture of the horse attached. The picture should show all 4 legs & hooves and face. If your horse has a brand or other identifying mark, please use that side of the horse. After you have completed the form, you, your parent, and your local Extension Agent need to sign and date the form. You will keep the original; the Extension Office will keep a photocopy of your form. If you have questions, contact your local Extension Office.

Don't forget, there is a new Kansas 4-H Horse Show Rule Book. Check the back cover of your rule book to make sure it is the most current; it should say: S133 Revised January 2020. Be sure to download it or have your local Extension Office order it for you. It can be found at: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animals/horse.html> under General Horse Resources. There are several rule changes you need to be aware of and this will be the rule book used at the KSF State 4-H Horse Show.

**There is a TON of information** about the Horse project at: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animals/horse.html> Check it out and bookmark that page for future reference.

If you would like to submit an article or have a horse event you would like to publicize, please e-mail that information to Jean at [jhuntley@ksu.edu](mailto:jhuntley@ksu.edu).

**Happy trails and safe riding!**

## 4-H Horse Action Team Members

If you wonder who helps direct the 4-H Horse program, the list of those wonderful volunteers is below.

Bronc Barrows, Walnut Creek District; Jenny Bormann, Riley County; Nicole Crosson, Wyandotte County; Becky Dillon, McPherson County; Teresa Douthit, Geary County; Jeannie George, Central Kansas District; Steve George, Central Kansas District; Anna Hixson, Cowley County; Jean Huntley, Edwards County; Karrie Miller, Meade County; Will Morris, Wildcat District; Rylee Peterson, Edwards County; Jim Pringle, Rock Springs; Beverly Seuser, Central Kansas District; Kathrine Shade, Leavenworth County; Hailey Sharp, Riley County; Royce Turner, Phillips-Rooks District; Troy Turner, Phillips-Rooks District; Shannon Rogge, State 4-H Coordinator; Lexie Hayes, Youth Livestock Coordinator; Anissa Jepsen, State 4-H Specialist



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## **Giddy-up: 4-H horse shows get green light beginning in April**

### ***Organizers get the go-ahead to re-start several popular events***

Kansas 4-H officials got a bit more pep in their gait recently when it was announced that the state's largest youth organization will proceed with several horse shows in 2021.

Shannon Rogge, a 4-H youth development program coordinator, said one of the premier events each year is the horse judging contest, which will take place April 23 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

"We will be teaming with another horse show that weekend," Rogge said. "We determined that the arena is large enough so that people will be spread out."

Rogge said the event serves as the state contest for Kansas 4-H members in the senior division, or ages 14-18. The winner of the contest will be eligible to attend the national horse judging contest later this year.

Contestants will be judging halter classes and several performance classes, and then will have to justify their rankings before a set of judges.

Other 4-H horse events that have been given the go-ahead include:

**\*Hippology** – This is a quiz bowl competition where teams of four youth compete against other teams in a tournament-style bracket. The champion in the senior bracket (ages 14-18) will advance to national competition. This contest will be held online only.

**\*Horse Panorama** – This is a compilation of several contests, including public speaking, photography and educational posters. It is open to 4-H youth ages 7-18; those in the senior division will also be competing for a spot in the national competition.

**\*Logo competition** – 4-H youth are invited to submit a design for t-shirts that will be available during the Kansas State Fair in September.

**\*District horse shows (June and July)** – These are the six qualifying shows to advance to the Kansas

State Fair in September. Check with your local extension agent for more information.

## **Kansas 4-H horse project to launch video series**

### ***Organizers say videos will help youth plan for equine career***

Youth enrolled in the Kansas 4-H horse project will receive a big boost later this month with the release of a video series that promotes their career interests.

Anissa Jepsen, a 4-H youth development specialist at the state office in Manhattan, said the five-part series is a combined effort between Kansas State University and Texas A&M, both of which provided equine experts to talk about the path to a successful career.

The videos, called the Equine Production Educational Series, were produced at the K-State horse unit on the north side of the Manhattan campus.

"We have so many equine project members that are interested in pursuing a career or building their own breeding program, so we wanted to develop a series that is focused on that, from embryo to equine," Jepsen said.

"The youth that watch these videos will be ones who are interested in learning more about what veterinarians and breeding managers look at when they are starting their breeding program, selecting stallions and mares, and the technical aspects of this project area."

Jepsen noted the series is for those with advanced knowledge in the project. It includes a five-part stallion series covering reproduction and the breeding process; and a multi-part mare series that covers foaling.

Information on accessing the videos will be available on the Kansas 4-H website.

Jepsen said youth and parents soon will be asked to complete a survey form to help organizers determine the usefulness of the videos.

"We want parents to be aware that this is an advanced series and participate with their youth," she said. "Also, we need to collect data to

make sure these are the things that our equine project members want to see from the Kansas 4-H equine project area.”

“We have such a great resource with our K-State horse unit that we want to make sure we’re developing things that fit in with what our project members want.”

The video series will launch just prior to what is a busy month for the Kansas 4-H horse project. Starting in late March through April, Jepsen said the project will host numerous events as part of the popular Horse Panorama and Equifest, including hippology, quiz bowl, public speaking and horse judging.

“We are excited to be able to offer so many new adventures for those that are really interested in the equine project area,” Jepsen said. “The activities will be for beginning equine project members all the way to advanced project members with the video series.”

For information on all of the upcoming horse events, visit the Kansas 4-H website.

## 10 Qualities of Great Ranch Hands

*Top operations share the 10 things they look for in ranch hands.*

The cowboy is an iconic symbol of western heritage, but the profession is not merely historic: Today’s ranching community still utilizes ranch hands every day. While most hands either grew up on a ranch or have extensive experience with them, not all ranch managers require years of cattle-raising experience from their cowboys. So how do you become a ranch hand?

Here several ranch managers and hands from AQHA Ranching Heritage Breeder ranches share what these operations look for in ranch hands.

1. **A broad-based set of skills.** Horsemanship is just one ingredient that makes up qualified ranch hands.
2. **Ranching experience.** Another owner and manager wants his hands to contribute to the process of calming the cattle while encouraging them to grow in his cow-calf operation.
3. **How you handle yourself.** It’s all about how you handle yourself around the cattle –

they remember how they’re handled. You want to be easy and gentle with them; you don’t want to be too rough or too quick with livestock.

4. **Finding joy in completing tasks.** A head trainer says: Every day is a challenge, and when you can accomplish something and get it finished, there’s no better feeling.
5. **Basic understanding of cattle care, feeding and watering.** Another manager says previous ranching experience comes in handy here. And being a good ranch hand is more than speaking cowboy slang.
6. **Some higher education.** An owner says he has seen an influx of graduates from equine and livestock programs at universities applying for positions at ranches, and it’s been a boon for the management of his operation.
7. **Love and appreciation for livestock and livestock management.** Whether it be the care of the horse, the care of a newborn calf or the care of the equipment that we maintain the ranch with, it’s all overlapping. So, ranchers try to find ranch hands who have compassion and deep-seated knowledge about the industry.
8. **Desire to learn.** Many times, you can be taught the other stuff. It helps if you have an idea of how to work with horses and cattle. The more knowledge you have prior to starting, the better. But at the same time, some ranches are pretty willing to take you on if you will listen and are willing to learn.
9. **Realize you’re going to work hard – very hard.** A cowboy life is not easy. These experts all agree – the hours are long, work can be strenuous and sometimes monotonous and there are a myriad of challenges. This is why experience is helpful.
10. **Be humble and hardworking.** Be willing to get in there and learn from everybody – not just one side of things. When you humble yourself without trying to impress somebody, you learn, and you’ll end up with a job offer.

Source: *America’s Horse*, March 2019

# AT A GLANCE

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## Hoof Abscesses

By Michelle Anderson, The Horse Digital Managing Editor  
Reviewed by Vernon Dryden, DVM, CJF, Bur Oak Veterinary  
and Podiatry Services  
Photos by iStock



Hoof abscesses require wrapping to keep the area clean and prevent further infection.

A hoof abscess is a localized infection of a horse's foot, usually behind the hoof wall or sole. While hoof abscesses can be extremely painful, they usually resolve easily with treatment within 3-5 days.

### Clinical signs of a hoof abscess include:

- ◆ Lameness, often severe and nonweight-bearing;
- ◆ Swelling in the associated leg;
- ◆ Localized heat;
- ◆ Drainage or evidence of a "tract"; and
- ◆ Increased digital pulse in the affected limb.

3-5

Often, hoof abscesses will "blow" or pop open and ooze a smelly pus, usually giving the horse near-immediate relief from the painful pressure.

### There are two common types of hoof abscesses:

**SUBSOLAR** — Under the sole, which typically vent at the white line, bars, or heel bulbs.

**SUBMURAL** — Under the wall, which typically vent at the coronary band.

*Hoof abscesses often result from an initial trauma, such as bruising or a puncture, which allows bacteria into the foot, where infection festers. Management practices and health conditions can make horses more susceptible to getting hoof abscesses.*



Subsolar



Submural

### Rapidly changing wet-dry climates or wet-frozen environments.

These conditions can degrade hoof quality and lead to bruising and injuries.



Frozen ground

**Poor hoof quality or conformation.** Weak and/or imbalanced hooves are more vulnerable to the injuries that predispose a horse to abscesses.

**Neglected hoof care.** Lack of hoof hygiene and proper trimming and farriery can lead to weakened hooves.



Poor hoof care

**Pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID or equine Cushing's disease) or other immune-system compromising diseases.**

Diseases that affect the immune system make horses more prone to infection.



Cushing's disease

**Rocky or hard footing.**

Poor footing can result in bruising, which can turn into an abscess.

## Hoof Abscesses



THE HORSE STAFF

Muddy, unsanitary living conditions. Standing on wet ground makes hooves overly soft. Combine those soft hooves with the bacteria growing in mud, and the conditions are ripe for hoof abscesses to form.

### WARNING!

A hoof abscess' failure to resolve quickly could indicate the infection has progressed into deeper hoof structures, such as the coffin bone or synovial structures. This requires immediate veterinary attention.

To locate an abscess, you might need the help of your veterinarian and/or farrier, who will use hoof testers to find the pain point and might open the abscess with a hoof knife to relieve pressure. Treatment can also include:

- ◆ Cleaning the foot;
- ◆ Removing the shoe, when necessary;
- ◆ Locating the entry wound (if there is one);
- ◆ Establishing drainage by softening the hoof capsule with foot soaks and/or poultices to encourage rupture and drainage;
- ◆ Keeping the foot wrapped and protected from debris entering and causing further infection; and
- ◆ In some cases, anti-inflammatory medications and antibiotics.



ALEX BECKSTIET

**Farriers usually DO NOT REPLACE a horse's shoe until lameness has resolved and drainage has stopped.**