

Davis County 4-H Horse Program
New Member Packet
September 1, 2021-August 31, 2022

We are so excited to welcome you to Davis County Horse 4-H. It is an amazing opportunity for your whole family to gain knowledge, friends, have service opportunities, and be involved in the community. It is a volunteer-based program and we will need your help to keep it running! 4-H is a [national non-profit youth development program](#) that focuses on education as their primary goal.

the 4-H Pledge (recited at every practice, event, and show):

I pledge my Head to clearer thinking,

My Heart to greater loyalty,

My Hands to larger service,

and my Health to better living,

For my Club, My Community, My Country and my World.

In order to be part of our county program, there are a few things you must do:

You must enroll your child as a participant in Davis County 4-H and enroll yourself and/or your spouse, if applicable. All parents need to help volunteer, and all types and levels of knowledge are welcome. This also allows you and your child to begin participating in all activities immediately. While enrolling, you will notice there are 3 age groups: Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. It is based on the grade/age of your child as of September 1 of the current school year (2021-2022).

JUNIOR 3rd-5th grade

INTERMEDIATE 6th - 8th grade

SENIOR 9th-12th grade

Youth MUST be in 3rd grade AND 8yrs old by Sep 1, 2022 to join the 4-H horse program.

The novice group, which any age group member can be a part of, is a great way to get started in our horse shows. This group is for beginners and will have easier judging and less competitive grouping. This is not required to compete, but we recommend it for beginners. However, 4-H members cannot move between groups once the show season has started. The novice group is also not eligible for Region or State Horse Show Competitions.

<https://4h.zsuite.org/> is the website used for all Utah 4-H enrollment and State/County event registration.

You will also want to join a club (or two if you have a desire to compete in English) that will help you learn, practice, and develop. Some of our clubs are full, and we are always looking for more

leaders with knowledge and a willingness to serve. Please contact club leaders and try to find the best fit for you.

Our Clubs:

Rebel Riders, practicing in Syracuse, email: cthompson.kaysville@gmail.com

Pony Express, practicing at a private indoor/outdoor facility, fees required for use of arena, email: hailey.husbands@outlook.com

Hoofbeats, practicing in Syracuse, email: axland10@gmail.com

Jumping Beans, ENGLISH riding club, practices at Arrowhead Stables in Layton, email: kimbeejohnson@yahoo.com

Horse-Less Horse Clubs: we are currently looking for volunteer leaders to help get this club off the ground. Please contact jenna.aldrich@usu.edu if you are interested.

*If you are unable to find a club to join, please select independent study in your 4h.zsuite.org member profile and we will try to coordinate a club membership for you. Youth may participate in county events, EDUnights, and horse shows even if they are not able to join a club due to limited space.

Once you have enrolled and contacted a club in your area, you are now ready to join the fun! First, to ensure that you are receiving Horse Program emails, make sure that you have selected the Horse/Pony project in your Zsuite profile. This selection is available just after you select a club(s). If you are still not receiving emails from jenna.aldrich@usu.edu, send her an email and let her know! Be aware, all emails are sent to the address provided in your 4h.zsuite.org member profile.

We will host Education Nights (EDUnights) once or twice a month from January to May where we get together to learn about different equine subjects, perform service, study and prepare for the horse shows and horse contests. These are so important to the overall knowledge for our participants and their families as well as help build a strong county in Horse 4-H. We encourage you to attend them if at all possible. Each year we select Horse Ambassadors, youth with at least one year experience and over the age of 11, to help plan and run these service projects and education nights. They are the perfect people to ask for help when you are lost or confused.

Depending on the club you join, clubs have weekly practices, usually starting in March or April, through spring and summer, though Rebel Riders and Hoofbeats are weather dependent. These are essential to practice horsemanship, safety, and learn the rules and the program.

We also strongly encourage you to read the State Rule Book and our County Rules to understand the programs available and how you can be involved. These documents are found on the state and county websites.

There are two main ways we can practice, learn and compete as a county.

First:

For those participating in the western show program, we will have 5 horse shows throughout the summer. There will be a practice show, called Novice Show, in May, for any first or second year competitor to have some education and experience about what our shows will look like. Each show you must be registered, have your horses up-to-date on all vaccines (biosecurity policy posted on our county website), and pay \$10 per show to help with costs (register on z-suites).

There are 7 events at each show.

The first event is a written test, which is REQUIRED in order to compete in any event. It is usually 20-30 questions, specific to each age group. There are two [educational online books](#) that each participant will be encouraged to study.

The second event is with your horse, called Fitting and Showmanship. It is REQUIRED, and a judged event, where an unmounted participant and their horse perform a simple pattern at a walk or a trot, usually with elements like backup, pivot, and stand. The horse is unsaddled, groomed and cleaned well, and the participant must be dressed in a white, long sleeve, button down shirt, 4-H patch (worn on left shoulder) hat/helmet, jeans, belt, and boots. (This is required clothing for all judged events including test) No spurs may be worn.

Check out the 4-H State rule book for more information.

The third event is Western Horsemanship. This is a mounted, judged event, where the participant demonstrates different maneuvers in a class, like a walk, trot, canter, stop, and backup. It is completed on the rail.

Check out the 4-H State rule book for more information.

The 4th event changes every two years. This year it will be bareback equitation. This is very similar to Western Horsemanship, only they will not have a saddle. All age groups will be asked to walk, trot, and canter on the rail as well as stop and backup. Any participant not confident or safe will be encouraged to come to the center of the arena during the canter. This will result in a ribbon drop (Each judged class, each participant will be given a Blue, Red, or White Ribbon Placement). But remember, as 4-H is primarily an education program, we want to encourage everyone to try difficult things but safety is our main concern.

Check out the [4-H State rule book](#) for more information.

Upon completion of these four events, participants are allowed to change out of their white button-down shirt, and wear any t-shirt, sweatshirt, or colored western shirt to compete in the following three events. The 4-H patch, boots, jeans, belt and helmet is still required.

The last three events are considered speed events, and are scored based on how much time it takes to complete it. That doesn't mean your child and horse must go fast. We encourage all to pick the speed they can safely complete the event.

The 5th event is pole bending. The horse will complete a pattern of 6 poles, weaving through and around them, and cross the finish timer. Each rider will compete individually, alone, for this event. If the pattern is broken, the rider is disqualified. If a pole is knocked over, 5 seconds is added.

Check out the 4-H State rule book for more information.

The 6th event changes every two years on rotation with bareback. This year we are competing in Scurry. It is an event with 6 small 16" jumps and a barrel. If the pattern is broken, the rider is disqualified. If a jump is knocked over, 5 seconds is added.

Check out the 4-H State rule book for more information.

The 7th event is barrel racing. There are 3 barrels in which the horse must run around, in a specific pattern, without breaking pattern or knocking over a barrel (5 seconds added).

Check out the 4-H State rule book for more information.

Second:

Davis County 4-H also participates in Team Contests and Individual Contests throughout the year. Some are required to be eligible for year-end awards (refer to county rules posted on the [county 4-H website](#)). Having access to a horse is not required for participation in these contests.

The Horse Contests are now available for all age groups to participate in and we encourage all youth to get involved in some or all.

[Horse Bowl Contest](#) consists of teams of 4 or 5 participants, competing against their age group. They will study and answer questions as a team about basic horse knowledge, and can compete on a county, state, or even national level.

[Hippology Contest](#) is a 4 man team event, competing against their age group in 4 different areas; Examination, Station Phase, Judging Phase, and Team Problems. This is a unique and fun way to make friends and compete in equine understanding and husbandry.

[Horse Judging Contest](#) is an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4H horse projects to demonstrate deductive reasoning and public speaking skills as they evaluate quality horses and explain their decisions. This is open to all age groups, and teams compete in groups of 3 or 4.

[Horse Demonstrations](#) is a competition we hold on the county level. Each participant is encouraged to prepare a timed demonstration, teaching a judge about an aspect of horsemanship that they are interested in. They can use powerpoint, objects, videos, etc. to teach their topic. These are judged and prizes are awarded on the county level.

There is also a [Horse Public Speaking Contest](#), which is similar to demonstrations except objects and demonstration tools are not allowed.

Year End [Portfolio](#) consists of the youth writing a cover letter and a resume, documenting what the participant has learned that year and goals, accomplishments, awards, etc. This is required for year-end awards eligibility.

WOW!

That was a lot of information. And there is still so much more. The purpose of this welcome packet is not to overwhelm you but to encourage you. We are here to help. We encourage you to find a friend from your club to act as a mentor family and to answer questions as they arise. We would love to help answer questions as well. We want you to feel welcome, we want to give you the information you need to participate, volunteer, and to gain a love for 4-H.

Please Contact us with any questions or concerns! We look forward to getting to know you.

Thanks,

Shelby Beckstead, shelbybeckstead@gmail.com
Davis Co. President

Tami Hartvigsen, thartvigsen2@gmail.com
Davis Co. Co-Vice President

Hailey Russel, hailey.husbands@outlook.com
Davis Co. Co-Vice President

Jenna Aldrich, jenna.aldrich@usu.edu
Davis County 4-H Horse and Livestock Program Coordinator

Upcoming Dates 2022

HORSE SHOWS

Novice Western Horse Show: May 16, 6:00pm, Syracuse City Arena
County Western Show #1: May 31, 4:00pm, Morgan County Fairgrounds
County Western Show #2: June 11, 8:00am, Plain City Arena
County western Show #3: July 15, 4:00PM. Morgan County fairgrounds
County Western Show #4: August 6, 8:00am, Plain City Arena
County Western Show #5: August 12, 4:00pm. Morgan County Fairgrounds
Region Western Horse Show: July 27, Cache County, must qualify
State 4-H horse Show: September 21 - 24, Black Hawk Arena, Salina, must qualify

Helpful links:

State 4-H website: <https://extension.usu.edu/utah4h/index>

Davis County 4-H website: <https://extension.usu.edu/davis/4h/index>

Utah State 4-H enrollment and event registration: <https://4h.zsuite.org/>

FaceBook:

[Davis County 4-H - Horse and Livestock](#) Private group for current members

[Davis County 4-H](#) all things 4-H in Davis County.

[Utah 4-H Horse Programs](#) private group for Horse 4-H members in Utah.

[Utah 4-H](#) all things 4-H in Utah

Instagram:

Daviscountyut4h all things 4-H in Davis County

Download the app:

https://grandstandsites.com/gs/index.php?c=Utah_4-H Statewide 4-H events.

Join us in GroupMe:

4-H Horse General Announcements: https://groupme.com/join_group/60062684/FMLFZvHG

Email List:

Be sure to add the Horse/Pony project area to your zsuite enrollment profile. This will add you to the horse programs email list. Be sure the email address provided in your enrollment profile is the email you will check!