

# VA 4-H HORSE PROGRAM



## Freezing in February?



Well, while it might be cold... it still doesn't slow us horse-crazy folks down. This is a great time of year to brush up on your horse knowledge, watch horse videos, read books and study about our favorite equines. No doubt you're in great company when your conversations revolve around horses! We encourage you to organize and participate in some great indoor horse project

meetings in preparation for the upcoming EquiSmartz™ contest April 1-3. It's also a great time for those to start planning their presentations. Juniors may also give presentations at our state [EquiSmartz™ contest](#). Each District Representing Agent will submit entries for Horse Bowl teams and the Communications contests. See the dates on the sidebar for some of the qualifying contests. The top winning teams at EquiSmartz™ earn a spot to participate at the Eastern National 4-H Roundup, in Louisville, KY, in fall 2016. The top two teams are eligible to compete at Southern Regionals in Perry, GA in late July.

### LEADER TIPS

Here are a few tips, suggestions & reminders!

- 1) [EquiSmartz™](#) entry forms are due 3/14/16. Horse Bowl and Communications Contest entries are submitted by your District's Representing agent identified in the EquiSmartz™ email. [Make your hotel reservations now](#). Here is the [schedule](#).
- 2) As you travel to contests, we remind you to carry a copy of each member's [Health History Report form](#) and have a plan in place with your Extension agent on the procedure if an emergency situation arises.
- 3) New leaders unsure of contest procedures will find excellent information in the [Survival Guide for 4-H Horse Leaders](#).

### SPRING PLANNING

Plan ahead with this quick checklist reminder of State Show & State Fair qualifications for 4-Hers:

- Enrolled as of Jan. 1
- Be age 10 or older
- Submit a horse project record book
- Qualified in a District show or clinic
- Passed Level 1 & 2 of Horsemanship skills: [See Senior exemption in rulebook](#).
- Participate in one county, district or state event, other than district show
- May 1 declaration submitted
- Additional club or unit (county) requirements may be established

### SAVE THE DATE!

- Feb. 12-13 - [B&B Hippology & Horse Judging](#), Blacksburg
- Feb. 20 - [Deworming Strategies](#), MARE Center, Middleburg
- Feb. 20 - [SE District Hippology contest](#), Mechanicsville
- Feb. 27 - [SE District Horse Bowl Qualifier](#), New Kent
- Mar. 5 - [Central District Horse Bowl Qualifier](#), Madison Heights
- Mar. 12 - [Northern District Horse Contests](#), Charlottesville
- Mar. 14 - [EquiSmartz™ entry deadline, postmarked & emailed](#)
- April 1-3 - [EquiSmartz contests](#)

### HORSE SHOW HERO

Want to win cool prizes? Or what about a FREE entry into the 2016 State 4-H Horse Show? All you have to do is participate in the [Horse Show Hero Program!](#) It is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1) Secure tax deductible donations from any friend, family or business! Any amount counts and all donations add up.

2) Turn in a Horse Show Hero Application with each donation.

3) Get money off your entry fee!

\$225 total in donations lowers your entry fee to \$75 and \$300 total in donations lowers your entry fee to **ZERO!** Email Leona at [leonar@vt.edu](mailto:leonar@vt.edu) for more information on how you can lower your entry fee!

Donations are due with state show entries on July 13, 2016.

### AND NOW FOR SOME FUN!

Mystique wants to know:  
"What kind of horses go out after dusk?"



Answer: Nightmares!

#### Now here's a hippology question:

What is an adult horse's normal temperature?

Photo submitted by Joanne Miller, leader of Brook Hill 4-H Horse and Pony Club, Bedford County

Be sure to sign up on the [4-H State Horse Listserve](#)

 Thank you leaders and parent volunteers for making this world a better place for our kids to enjoy with horses!

 **Virginia Cooperative Extension**  
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University  
[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

