

VA 4-H HORSE PROGRAM

March / April
2018



Horsemanship Skills Update

Horsemanship Skills Levels 3 and 4 will be implemented this year at the State Championship Show in September!

- Level 3 is knowledge based and will include a written test and practicum.
- Level 4 is a discipline specific advanced riding level.
- A limited number of participants will be accepted this year with more consideration given to the older youth.
- Only SENIORS will be able to test.
- After successfully passing both level 3 and 4 the youth will no longer have to test any future project horse.

More information coming soon. [Check the website for updates.](#) Contact: [Leona Ransdell](#)

Ambassadors Represent

Ambassadors have been serving throughout the state at the State Fair, *Intro to EquiSmartz*, and *EquiSmartz*. In addition to assisting in 4-H, they have been representing in other remarkable opportunities. Martina Essert and Kacy Goodson recently attended the Legacy Awards in Washington D.C., serving as social media correspondents and photographers, mixing with celebrities, award winners, and extraordinary sponsors of National 4-H. Camryn Madagan spoke to the Virginia Horse Council at their annual Board meeting and Laurel Pollock represented at the annual Youth Equine Legislative Day on Feb. 28.



EquiSmartz Wins!

Many thanks to the [Virginia Horse Industry Board](#) for sponsoring EquiSmartz this past weekend, March 23-25! Held in conjunction with the Virginia Horse Festival, approximately 300 contestants competed in six different educational contests. The [Meadow Event Park](#) graciously hosted the contest locations, convenient parking and free tickets. We thank the approximate 80 volunteers and Extension staff supporting our event! Congratulations to the following VHIB \$125 cash prize winners: Jr. New Comer: Alyson Bowden, Sr. New Comer: Kayla Richmond; Jr. PS: Danielle Rinker; Sr. PS: Taryn Cowles; Jr. IP: Randi Roehl; Sr. IP: Sydney Hudson; Jr. TP: Carrie Miller & Layla Myers; Sr. TP: Charlotte Manvell and Cora Hoemann; Jr. Novice HJ: Alexis Musselman; Sr. Novice HJ: Taylor Prince; Jr. HJ: Samantha Whysong; Sr. HJ: Katie Define; Jr. Hipp: Desiree Zeigler; Sr. Hipp: Charlotte Manvell; Jr. HB: Maggie Kelley; Sr. HB: Sarah Foster; Overall Junior: Maggie Kelley; Overall Senior: Charlotte Manvell. In addition, we are grateful to our sponsor, [Owl Run Nursery](#) in Catlett, VA for providing gifts to our volunteers (loblolly pines and red cedars) and to Janice Chayt for donating homemade cookies for the HJ lunch. We encourage volunteers to plant the seedlings in honor of the 2018 EquiSmartz contestants and the #4hgrowshere!



EquiSmartz is the Qualifying state-level event for Southern Regionals 4-H Championships and Eastern National 4-H Roundup. [Results are posted online.](#)

Learn to Drive!

Sponsored by The Neiswanger Foundation (501c3) at High Meadow Farm, in Flint Hill, VA, this introductory [DRIVING CLINIC](#), held May 12, is open to all 4-H Horse project members **with or without a horse!** Those without a horse will be able to experience a hands-on interactive lesson with the Foundation's own horses and carriages. Clinic covers demonstration and information on safety, equipment, various sports in driving and basic skills. This also serves as a Qualifying Clinic and Skills test for those that bring their own project. Register by May 7th.

Calendar of Events

- March 31 - VT Western Team 4-H Qualifying Clinic
- April 21 - SEDR1 4-H Qualifying Show
- April 21 - Central District 4-H Clinic and Skills
- April 21 - Central Dist. 4-H Qual. Dressage Clinic, Skills
- April 21 - 4-H Pasture Management Clinic
- April 28 - Fauquier Co. Open 4-H Horse Show
- April 29 - SEDR2 Dressage 4-H Qualifying Show
- May 1 - 4-H Horse Project Declarations Due!
- May 5 - Northern District 4-H Horsemanship Skills
- May 5 - Central District 4-H Open Qualifying Show
- May 12 - Northern District 4-H Driving Clinic
- May 19 - Northern District 4-H Open Qualifying Show
- May 19 - Central District 4-H Open Qualifying Show
- May 19 - SEDR2 4-H Qualifying Show (hunters)
- May 20 - SEDR2 4-H Qualifying Show (western)
- May 27 - Northern District 4-H Driving & Riding Skills
- May 27 - Northern District 4-H Open Qualifying Show
- June 2 - Western Ranch 4-H Qualifying Clinic



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