

Have you ever wondered what on earth the judge was looking for at the horse show? Thinking about a possible career in the horse industry or veterinary medicine? Or maybe you just devour all the horse books, magazines, and websites that you can get your hands on?

Whether you've shown for 10 years already, just got your first horse, or just dream about them, we've got a 4-H program for you! Come join us to work on some "winter projects": horse judging, hippology, horse bowl, and communications. **Any Macomb and St. Clair County 4-Hers are welcome.**

Horse Judging: You can learn what judges are looking for in a variety of conformation and performance classes, how to make quick, but rational decisions, and how to discuss and defend your preferences. Understanding how a judge thinks can definitely help you show wisely, and this project will certainly improve your writing and speaking skills as well. If you choose to compete in the state competition, the Equine Educational Expo (E3), you will judge and place eight classes of live horses, write down answers to some questions about the classes, and give 1-3 sets of reasons, where you explain your placings to a judge, one on one.

Hippology: This is the study of everything horse—really everything. From breeds, colors, and anatomy to tack, equipment, disciplines, feeds, history....you name it, you study it. All aspects of the state competition (E3) are written (multiple choice test, matching stations, and slides) except in the senior division where teams will discuss "team problems" with a judge.

Horse Bowl: Are you a gamer or otherwise have really quick reflexes? Combine that with some horse knowledge and this could be the project for you. It's just like it sounds, quiz bowl about horse facts, so being quick on the buzzer is a huge plus!

Communications: In this project, you'll develop an individual speech and/or work as a team to develop a demonstration on a horse related topic of your choice. You'll give this speech/demonstration to a panel of judges at the state competition (E3).

So, come check it out, and see if there's a winter project that's right for you. Meetings will be held the first Monday of every month from October through April at the Goodells County Park Community Building, 6:30-8:00 PM. You'll learn lots of new horse information and have a great time in the process. There are some small scholarships available to the top placing individuals at the state competition (E3). Several of the highest placing teams also qualify to move on to national competitions at shows such as the Eastern National Round-up, Quarter Horse Congress, and Arabian Nationals.

Leaders:

Lucy Brown (judging), 586-855-3215, lamckier@yahoo.com

Heather Mudge (hippology and horse bowl), 810-434-4359, dancer16_03@hotmail.com (put "horses" in the subject line)

Marianne Moskal (non-competition learning), 810-305-9834