

# PA 4-H Horse Forum: Preparing Youth Leaders

**Pat Comerford**  
**Extension Horse Program**  
**Coordinator**  
**The Pennsylvania State**  
**University**

UNIVERSITY PARK, (Centre Co.) - Did you know that over 6,500 youth and hundreds of volunteer leaders are involved in 4-H horse projects in Pennsylvania each year? To help meet the needs of equine industry, the second Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Forum will be held at the Days Inn Penn State and The Pennsylvania State University's Ag Arena in State College on March 5 & 7, 1999.

The conference is designed for 4-H members, 14 years of age and older, parents, volunteer leaders

and extension agents involved with 4-H horse projects in Pennsylvania. The forum is designed to strengthen communication and leadership skills as well as provide current information on horsemanship and equine management techniques. Seminars, educational displays and horse demonstrations by state and national specialists are part of the program.

The Forum will begin with registration from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 5, followed by a welcome from Dr. Terry Etherton, Head, Department of Dairy and Animal Science at Penn State. Pat Comerford, Penn State Extension Horse Program Coordinator, will present an up-

date of 1999 4-H horse programs and events.

Dr. Kevin Elko, Consulting Psychologist for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Penguins, will follow with the keynote lecture at 8:30 p.m., entitled, "Let's Get Motivated!"

Saturday's sessions include lectures, horse demonstrations, roundtable discussions and social activities. Dr. Sarah Ralston, international authority on equine nutrition from Rutgers University, will present two seminars on equine feeding management. Dr. Ralston will provide information for feeding the older horse and horses used in competitive events.

Ms. Jeanie Griffiths, Extension Horse Specialist from Cornell University, will discuss development of positive attitudes and effective communication in 4-H horse programs. Mr. Fred Rudy, Extension Agent from Dauphin County, will introduce creative ideas for involving urban youth and youth that do not own horses in 4-H horse activities. Mrs. Lynda Kerins, 4-H leader from Mercer County, will offer tips on dressing for the show ring on a budget.

Ms. Kathy Brown, manager of Ka-My Stables in Bellefonte, will present techniques for training the trail horse. Mr. Ward Studebaker, Penn State University Horse Farm Manager, will demonstrate training of the horse under saddle.

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Dr. Tammy Eichstadt, veterinarian from Greenville, will provide a horse health update. Mr. Brian Egan, Penn State Extension Assistant, will discuss horse behavior as related to training and handling. Saturday afternoon sessions will conclude with idea sharing and roundtable discussions for leaders, parents and 4-H members.

On Sunday, a panel of equine industry representatives will provide detailed information on career opportunities in the equine industry. Katie Passerotti of Erie County and Vanessa Polk and Megan Sly of Montgomery County will present opportunities for 4-H members in hippology and communication contests.

Extension Agents, Donna Zang of Butler County and Laura Watts of Cumberland County will provide information on computer resources in the horse world. The forum will conclude with Mr. Egan's demonstration of early training techniques for the young horse.

For additional information on the 4-H Horse Forum or 4-H horse programs in Pennsylvania, contact your local Cooperative Extension office.



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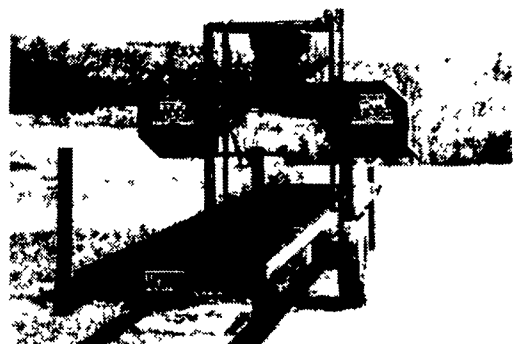
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