



## 2007 HORSE QUOTA BONUS TRIPS

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As the Minnesota 4-H Horse Project continues to be the largest Animal Science project area, the opportunities for 4-H youth have grown. In 2006, the Horse Bonus Trip Program was initiated to reward counties around the state for their excellence in programming. This year we are honored to award 19 additional horse trips to the Minnesota State Horse Show. This will allow for 19 additional 4-H youth from around the state to be given a chance to display their knowledge and project to the many people that attend the State Horse Show at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the counties who received bonus trips. Below we have included a brief summary of each county's programming activities.

We encourage all counties around the state to apply for a Bonus Trip in 2008. To apply for a 2008 Horse Quota Bonus Trip, log-on to the Minnesota 4-H website to read more about the Bonus Trip Program and to download an application.

<http://www.fourh.umn.edu/statefair/Horsebonustrips.html>

Benton County has made safety their number one priority. Last year 4-H clubs were invited to an all day camp to learn about safety issues and proper horse care and training. They also organize weekly training sessions at the Benton County Fairgrounds. Each week a different trainer attends to give the horse project members tips on improving in a specific area. Some lessons taught at these sessions include ground manners, loading a difficult horse, fitting and grooming tips, and nights focusing on either pleasure or gaming events. In addition to these opportunities, Benton County has organized a Western Heritage program to showcase at their county fair. With the horse barn updated and repaired, the 4-H Horse project members are fundraising to purchase a microphone system and other needed supplies. Congratulations to Benton County for doing it all!

The members of the Carlton County 4-H Horse Project organize their own leadership team to develop the monthly meetings, chair committees, and give clinics. Over the past year the youth officers have planned a practice horse show, tack sale, foal raffle, and weekly horse training clinics. Project members have also organized a fashion show to exhibit proper show attire, a holiday gift drive for the Salvation Army, a horse project bowl and horse judging teams. Carlton County held a week long clinic utilizing the enthusiastic youth, local resources, and hiring a professional horseman to educate about horse care, training, and showmanship skills. These efforts earned Carlton County a Bonus Trip in 2007!

Carver County strives to put learning first in their 4-H Horse Project. Youth members have organized and conducted numerous activities throughout the year with the support of adult and parent volunteers. One annual event is the weekend horse encampment, where 4-Hers, their parents, and their horse camp overnight. The event featured basic roping, cross-country jumping, driving clinic, trail classes, grooming techniques, and other activities to experience the horse project. Other events held include weekly practice nights, Western and English pleasure clinics, Gaming Clinics, Fun Shows, tack swap, project bowl teams, and many more events. For their work, Carver County deserves a bonus trip in 2007!

The Clay County 4-H Horse Project has objectives to provide educational programming that improves horsemanship skills, to teach youth responsibility and leadership skills, to provide a friendly atmosphere to grow in the horse project, and to have fun! Clay County has organized many events to improve the local horse project, including horsemanship clinics, weekly practices, hippology team, quiz bowl team, and Western Heritage project. Horse project members also hosted a district horse show and an invitational show for area horse enthusiasts to compete in. Clay County has done an outstanding job on completing their objectives of improving the 4-H Horse Project, and so they earn a 2007 Bonus Trip!

Crow Wing County is always looking for new opportunities to learn, have fun, and grow within the Horse Project. During the summer, weekly clinics were taught by trainers and adult volunteers. Crow Wing County offers an area Horse Show in the summer as a fundraiser and practice show for youth. The show helps to better prepare the youth for State Show. A 4-H Drill Team was organized and made their first performance at the county fair – a huge success! But more than time on a horse, Crow Wing County forms a Horse Bowl Team for members to know about horses. Six teams were sent to the Regional Bowl Competition with one team advancing to earn 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Junior Division of State Competition. Crow Wing has worked hard to increase the number of opportunities offered to the youth involved with the horse project, which also increases their number of trips by earning a 2007 Bonus Trip!

East Ottertail County has seen the Horse Project flourish and grow over the past year. Together members and parents of the Horse Project practice weekly to prepare them for upcoming competitions, like Family Fun Shows, County Fair, and State Horse Shows. Horse Camp is another highlight of the year; about 12 kids attended the camp and returned mentoring the remaining project members. East Ottertail Horse Project members also work to keep achievement record books about horse knowledge and techniques that make them better horsemen. East Ottertail needs to make room for another trip because their achievements earned them a 2007 Bonus Trip!

Practices for horse and rider are important to Freeborn County. They have developed a variety of training and practice sessions for Horse Project members. Throughout the summer months, 13 training sessions are scheduled for further education on English, Western, Gaming, Trail, and Showmanship techniques. Also, included in all these training sessions are horse safety, horse etiquette, sportsmanship, and of course, having fun. The Horseless Horse members are also given the opportunity to ride horses. Freeborn County has developed a mentorship project for these Horseless Horse Project members to work with a youth leader and horse to learn how to lead, wash, brush, clip, and about horse safety. The Horse Program in Freeborn County gives the youth an opportunity to practice, perform, and succeed. Their success awards them a Bonus Trip in 2007!

65 members comprise the Goodhue County 4-H Horse Project Group. In the past year, the group utilized their new outdoor arena with weekly clinics and a horse show. Local clinicians came to teach sessions about Western horsemanship and pleasure, English equitation and pleasure, trail class, games, ground handling, and safety. The group holds monthly meetings to report about their horse project progress, learn about more horse opportunities, and educate one another about horses. Goodhue did a good job to get them a 2007 Bonus Trip!

Hennepin County works hard to further expand the 4-H Horse Project by educating horse members and exposing the surrounding communities to the horse project. During the year, Hennepin County horse members host monthly meetings, organize sessions for older youth and horseless project members to work with horses, summer horse campouts, and variety of local horse shows. They also consistently improve their community and their club by cleaning barns, Horse Bowl demonstrations, singing at nursing homes, annual tack swap, supporting area business, and volunteering around the area. Hennepin County gallops towards success to attain a Bonus Trip in 2007!

Hubbard County worked hard to educate both beginning and current Horse Project members through clinics, mentorships, a Western Heritage team, and community service. The clinics provided training session to 275 attending youth over viewing safe handling, riding skills, training techniques, and sportsmanship. All new and beginning riders were paired with experienced members to build friendships, encourage sportsmanship, and further educate them about the horse project. Hubbard County offered two Western Heritage clinics about basic skills, team techniques, breakaway, pen roping, and goat roping. The 4-H members work hard in their community by riding in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Bike Rodeo teaching safety, and beautification work to the Hubbard County fairgrounds. Congratulations to Hubbard County for a 2007 Bonus Trip!

Jackson County has progressed its 4-H Horse Program into an opportunity for youth education, experiences, and enjoyment for horses. In 2006, Jackson County offered summer workshops for area youth. Members of the local Saddle Club taught 4-Hers about clipping, grooming, fitting, and preparing a horse for the show. They also mentored on some pattern work, including Halter Showmanship, Western Pleasure, and Western Horsemanship. Through the off season, Jackson County also worked through their Horse Show Point system to further develop a system improving their county fair competition. Jackson County's working hard and playing hard motto earned them a Bonus Trip in 2007!

The Kandiyohi County 4-H Horse Project is dedicated to providing educational, leadership, and service opportunities. Over the past year, they have organized to offer free riding lessons, clinics, meetings, and variety of competitive shows. The horse shows held in Kandiyohi County include an open youth show, county qualifying show with mandatory interviews, music and motion horse performance, and county fair. But the members serve their community by organizing the annual "Horse Encounter," an opportunity for mentally and physically disabled adults to learn about horses with a hands-on grooming session, saddling and lunging demonstration, egg & spoon class, and more. Kandiyohi earns a Bonus Trip in 2007 for their efforts to improving the local, regional, and state 4-H Horse Project.

The Martin County 4-H Horse Program's goal is to educate youth to develop life skills, work safely with horses, and learn responsible care. Throughout the summer months, Martin County holds weekly riding clinics teaching a variety of lessons and also work on showmanship skills through a mock show. With the remaining months of the year, the Horse members participate in knowledge bowl, riding lessons to mentored children, and volunteer at Misfit Acres, Inc. an equine sanctuary. These efforts earn a 2007 Bonus Trip!

Pipestone County has an active Horse Program. The county horse program has grown in the areas of Horse Quiz Bowl, Hippology, Judging and Trainings. The competitive teams have traveled over the state and across the country to participate in horse bowl and Hippology contest. Trainers from around the county teach 4-Hers through weekly clinics. This program advanced into a competition with the 4-Hers recording training hours and being tested on their expanded knowledge to earn awards. Congratulations to Pipestone County for a 2007 Bonus Trip!

An expanding horse program allowed Polk County to improve their local 4-H by focusing their program on beginning horse members. They developed summer clinics to overview ground work, health issues, safety, and show techniques. Older members also gave tours of the fairgrounds and mentored the beginning horsemen. They also developed a Rule Book to explain the annual year, review fair safety and rules. All of these improvements let Polk County to deserve a 2007 Bonus Trip!

Scott County strives for excellence in horse programming. The local horse project excelled through goal setting to add activities, leadership abilities, and responsible to all members. The activities members organize annually, include clinics, a fun show, Halloween party, mentorships, movie night, riding lessons, trail rides, and a tack swap. Their program also stresses fun learning, developing pride, and responsibility for equine management. The excellence of Scott County 4-H Horse Program leads them to a 2007 Bonus Trip!

Sibley County has been working hard on expanding the number of participants in the 4-H Horse Project and the increasing the number of opportunities available to the youth. The activities available to horse project members include Western and English Pleasure Clinics, Game Clinics, Horsemanship Arrangement, Annual Trail Ride, and a Drill Team. Sibley County also hosts a "Fairly Ready Fun Show" for the 4-Hers competing at County Fair. An instructor critiques each participant and gives them tips to improve their riding. This supports the youth to prepare for competition and become better riders in the future. Sibley County has expanded their program once again, to fit in a 2007 Bonus Trip!

The goal of the Sherburne County Horse Program is to promote all aspects of the horse project in a fun and educational environment. Each member of the horse program is required to maintain records to set goals and reflect on their own experiences. They also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of clinics, Western Heritage, Horse Bowl Teams, Horseless Kids Team, Horse Judging, Hippology Teams, Drill Team Performances, Annual Tack Show, and many area fun and competitive shows. The members of Sherburne County Horse Program serve their community through financial support to MN Hooved Animal Rescue, Hope Rising, Feed My Starving Children, and work together to clean up Camp Courage. Sherburne County deserves a 2007 Bonus Trip!

Waseca County's 4-H Horse Program is an opportunity for youth to gain knowledge, acquire skills, and serve their community. One of the programs that Waseca County offers is the "Special Horses for Special People" program. This program supports 80 members of the community with physical, mental, and emotional challenges by giving them the chance to experience horses. The Waseca County Horse Project members assist the participants and handle the horses to provide a fun and safe environment for everyone. Also, this past year Waseca County raised \$30,000 to purchase new stalls for the fairgrounds. Waseca County continues to participate in the Minnesota horse council, horse judging contests, quiz bowl, hippology, give demonstrations, and provide riding clinics to its youth. Waseca County raises the bar to earn a 2007 Bonus Trip!

The Washington county 4-H Horse program has many excellent educational opportunities and programs that teach 4-Hers about horses and so much more! Each year Washington County hosts a horse camp for 4-Hers to bring their own horses and learn all about them. They develop a buddy system that allows younger children to work with older youth. The older youth guide the young members through camp, training, and answer their questions. Washington County also provides a Horse Project Day, Advanced Game Clinic, and free riding lessons, with some provided specifically to performance and game riders. The Schooling Show is an opportunity to prepare for County Fair by practicing showmanship in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The excellence of programming in Washington County earns them a 2007 Bonus Trip!