

Penn State **Extension**

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PRESS RELEASE:

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Youth Recognized for Achievements in Pennsylvania 4-H Team Horse Power and Horsemanship Skills Programs

Youth from across Pennsylvania were recently recognized for their achievements in the Pennsylvania 4-H Team Horse Power and Horsemanship Skills Programs. The youth were honored at the State 4-H Horse Show in Harrisburg. In recognition of their service and achievement in these programs the youth were introduced and presented with medallions and or custom belt buckles.

Team Horse Power is a leadership program that trains and empowers teens and young adults to develop their individual skills and in turn teach horsemanship skills and mentor youth. The team consists of 25 teens from 17 counties across the state. Team members work at county, regional and state activities to help other youth improve their horsemanship abilities, to promote safety, and to provide information about 4-H programs. Over the past months, Team Horse Power members have conducted 86 workshops and/or clinics on horsemanship skills and safety, reaching approximately 1535 youth, leaders, volunteers and parents. The team is to be commended for their dedication, accomplishments and outstanding work with youth throughout 2011.

During the 4-H State Horse Show clinics and demonstrations with horses and riders were conducted by Team Horse Power members, Penn State extension and industry professionals. Dr. Tammy Eichstadt conducted a demonstration on preparing the horse for Open Trail classes. Equine Extension Associates for the 4-H Horse Program, Bethany Bickel and Lew Trumble worked with several Team Horse Power members to provide hands-on clinics for youth and adult participants. The clinics included horsemanship, handling and safety techniques, as well as an introduction to the "On the Road to Horsemanship Skills" curriculum. Team Horse Power members worked with younger show participants to make and show mop ponies in two, popular interactive sessions.

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Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

The 4-H Horse Program Development Committee awarded custom belt buckles to three 4-H members for passing Level 4 of the Horsemanship Skills Program. Dakota Roy, Butler County; Fran McAninch, Clearfield County and Danielle Lehman, Columbia County were recognized for passing Level 4.

The Horsemanship Skills Program is a progressive, educational program to develop safety, horsemanship and life skills of 4-H members. Youth are provided opportunities to learn skills and are tested by trained examiners before advancing to the next level. There are four levels beginning with a novice or beginner level and progressing to an advanced level. Level 4 is the highest level of the program and recognizes youth for their advanced level of horsemanship skills and ability to effectively ride and handle their horse.

For additional information on 4-H Horsemanship Skills Programs or Team Horse Power in Pennsylvania, contact your county Penn State Cooperative Extension office, or visit the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program web site at www.das.psu.edu – go to 4-H programs, then horses.



4-H Horse Program Team Horse Power Members

L to R (Back Row)

Bethany Bickel, 4-H Horse Program Equine Extension Associate Eastern Region
 Lew Trumble, 4-H Horse Program Equine Extension Associate Western Region
 Dakota Roy, Butler County
 Paige Henry, Indiana County
 Carissa Chilcott, Butler County
 Lauren Androstic, Westmoreland County
 Kristen Folk, Berks County
 Joey Rankinen, Clinton County
 Patty Kelly, Chair, 4-H Horse Program Development Committee
 Michele Gannon, Monroe County
 Dr. Tammy Eichstadt, Vice Chair, 4-H Horse Program Development Committee
 Pat Comerford, Penn State Equine Extension Specialist

L to R (Front Row)

Alexis Lingenfelter, Clinton County
 Laurel Johnson, Butler County
 Fran McAninch, Clearfield County
 Leah Craig, Allegheny County
 Elizabeth Pope, Northumberland County

Photo Credit:

John Hudson Photography

Missing from photo:

Ingrid Boarts, Armstrong County
 Kelsey Dolan, Cambria County
 Stephanie Puckly, Warren County
 Felicia Martin-Borrero, Bucks County
 Celeste Valencik, Columbia County
 Ronnie Dingle, Columbia Coun

Ronnie Dingle, Columbia County
 Alyssa Keefer, Lancaster County
 Allyson Flurer, Monroe County
 Nicole Fox, Northampton County
 Ingrid Levisay, Northampton County
 Kate Basset, Northumberland County
 Cheyenne Myers, York County
 Caroline Van Pelt, York County



Level 4 4-H Horsemanship Skills Awards

(Pictured with certificates and belt buckles provided by 4-H Horse Program Development Committee)

L to R

Patty Kelly, Chair, 4-H Horse Program Development Committee

Dakota Roy, Butler County

Fran McAninch, Clearfield County

Danielle Lehman, Columbia County

Dr. Tammy Eichstadt, Vice Chair, 4-H Horse Program Development Committee

Pat Comerford, Penn State Equine Extension Specialist

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