

# Pasture Management

How Does Your Paddock  
Grow?



## Projects

Club: Pasture Walk

Ages 7-8: Grow your own pasture:  
Grass Head Monsters

Ages 9-11: Poisonous Plants  
Identification and Guide

Ages: 12-15 Pasture Rebuild and Repair

## Pasture Walk

It's important to check the safety of paddocks routinely. Broken fences or poisonous plants pose a threat to ponies and horses. Flooding or muddy areas lead to erosion and are dangerous to horses' legs and hooves.

As a club, visit a few pastures in your area. Using the checklist provided explore the paddock carefully to assess its safety and environmental impact. Compare your findings and pick the best place to keep your pony!

## Pasture Fact

Under CT law, horses are considered livestock and each town requires you to have a specific amount of acreage per horse to house them on your property.



# Poisonous Plants

The pasture can contain weeds and plants that are dangerous to horses if eaten. It's up to the owner to keep the area clear and safe. Help them do that with a guide to the area's most common poisonous plants.

Working in small groups research common plants and weeds that are toxic to horses when eaten.

Find out what their common and scientific names are along with what location they are commonly found in.

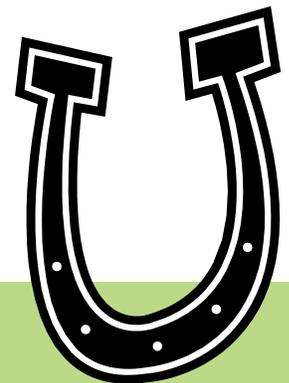
Identify what the signs are if a horse has eaten them.

Most important determine how you can treat your horse if they have eaten a poisonous plant.

#1. Create a guidebook for the horse owner that describes poisonous plants in detail. Include photos and multiple references to help managers, owners and riders. Have the book laminated to withstand the wear and tear of barn life.

Materials:  
Construction Paper  
Markers  
Photos or dried samples of poisonous plants

#2: Set up a See, Touch and Feel booth of poisonous plants at your local 4H fair or for your club. Quiz the public and 4H members on their plant knowledge. Play Jeopardy or Memory to get everyone involved!



## Pasture Fact:

A horse will eat timothy, orchard, Kentucky Blue or a combination of all types of grass. Make sure it's kept short because they won't like long tough grasses.

# Plan of Action



As a member of 4H do your part to improve the environment for your horses and your community. Barn owners are busy people and don't always have the personnel or money to make improvements on their property. Become a leader in your club by organizing a work day to help barns in your county.

- During your pasture walks ask the owners if they would like help making their farms better for their horses and the environment.
  - Propose a plan of action to repair fencing, remove excess rocks, dry up muddy areas with vegetative buffers or water diversions, or even replant parts of the pasture. Ask barn owners what their biggest need is in the pasture and create a plan to repair that area.
  - Create deadlines, assign tasks and list necessary tools and skills for the task.
  - Prepare your club for their work-day by teaching them the skills they may need to know beforehand. How to properly use a hammer, safety gear used in construction, how to plant seed or how to safely lift rocks are only a few examples of necessary skills in barn repair.
  - Team builders and group activities would be a good idea to ensure that the group works as a team at the barn.
  - Plan and execute a fundraiser to earn the necessary funds.
  - Ask for donations from a local tack or hardware store. Scraps from other projects on the farm could also be used with permission by the owner.
  - Be creative and resourceful in your fundraising. It will pay off in the long run.
- Tell Someone! Share your hard work by writing an article to your local paper or spreading the word to other 4H clubs in your state and the country. Explain how your hard work made that pasture safer for horses and better for the environment.