

# MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL GRANTS

## Special Horses for Special People 2008

Special Horses For Special People is a program for individuals with developmental and/or physical disabilities of all ages. This is our sixth year for the program in Waseca County. We are one of the programs that ADD (Advocates for Developmental Disabilities Serving Steele and Waseca Counties) serves. We are sponsored by the Waseca and Steel County Mounted Sheriff Posse members, Waseca County 4H Horse Project members, Waseca County Extension Services and many volunteers from the area.

This year we had 150 riders participate in our program. We were very excited to purchase the "Independence Saddle." This saddle was made possible because of the grant from the Minnesota Horse Council, other donations and fundraisers. What was truly great about this saddle is that any one could use it. The adaptive props can be easily removed so the saddle can be adjusted to each individual's physical need. Adaptations could be made from the use of limited support to full support. As you see in the photos below, these two individuals were thrilled to ride. The one young man has come to our program for two years and this is the first time that he was able to ride a horse. As he was finally fit in the saddle and began his journey around the arena he exclaimed with excitement "I did it!!" What a joy!

### Special Horses for Special People ADD

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## 2008 Horse Health and Safety Clinic

The second annual Horse Health and Safety Clinic was held April 18-19, 2008. This year we decided to give away halters, ropes, grooming kits, books, and annual worming kits, along with some other miscellaneous items. We also had to plan for food, supplies, speakers, advertising, and the farm. Altogether the expenses totaled about \$1,900.00. The Minnesota Horse Council generously awarded a grant to the Watonwan County 4-H Horse Project. Attendees to the clinic received a folder which included a program, five door prize tickets, deworming schedule, schedule of 4-H activities for the year that are open to the public, helmet flyer, ulcer brochure, vaccination schedule, hoof care schedule, equine safety tips sheet, order form, and evaluation, and notes to follow Jessica Howe's presentation. The 4-H members that attended also received all of their necessary paperwork to fill out and turn in for the county fair. The clinic began with Jessica Howe presenting on infectious diseases, vaccination techniques, deworming, colic, and more. She stressed the health problems that were most common in our area. It was nice to know exactly how much risk each disease has in our specific area of Minnesota. I talked about 4-H and the different ways that people in the community could be involved in 4-H, even if they weren't enrolled. Since our horse project is very small, we rely heavily on people who are willing to lease their horses out to a 4-Her for the fair.

After a break, Mike Schultz and his apprentice, Nick Pease, talked about everyday hoof care, trimming, shoeing, different types of shoes, and much more. Horse bowl is a big part of the 4-H horse project. We split into teams of five and played a few rounds. Joleen Braaten, our former 4-H senior horse bowl coach was the moderator and scorekeeper, while Nick Pease was the judge. Although this activity seemed to amuse everyone, the youth were the most active and seemed to have the most fun. It was cool to be able to incorporate and give a little taste of what exactly we do in 4-H.

The next day the farriers trimmed horses hooves. The vet set up on the bleachers and one-by-one owners brought their horses up to be vaccinated and to get blood taken for Coggins.

The second annual Horse Health and Safety Clinic was a huge success! The weather was beautiful, the horses were well-behaved, and everyone who attended participated with enthusiasm. This clinic would not have been possible without the great deal of generosity, time, and creativity that was utilized. I want to thank all of the people who helped make this possible, and especially to the Minnesota Horse Council for funding this event. I hope that we can all continue to work together to meet new friends and learn more ways to keep our equine companions safe and healthy. Thank you.

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