

# EQUINE EXTENSION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT LARIMER COUNTY

Internship Funded by the Spalding Family

## PROJECT INTRODUCTION

When starting my internship, there were four main objectives outlined:

### Increase Equine-specific Knowledge –

- The main goal of my internship was to increase equine-specific knowledge via research projects and leading educational events.

### Hands-On Application of Animal Husbandry –

- An objective was to refine skills in animal husbandry with a focus on equine management and welfare.

### Refine Verbal Communication –

- Another target outlined was to refine verbal communication through giving lectures and facilitating educational events for all age ranges.

### Lead an Equine-based event –

- I was responsible for leading and organizing equine-based educational events for various audiences.

## INTERNSHIP GOALS

The overarching goal of the internship was to support the Colorado Equine Community. I heled aid in this with the guidance of my mentor and starting with community outreach, research, and aiding in the youth of the Equine Industry.

## HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO YOUR EDUCATION

My education is centered around animal care and physiology while I pursue a bachelors in Animal Sciences. The main goal of the researched I helped conduct was around stocking rates and nutritional value of teff grass which reinforced my undergraduate studies. Overall, I gained knowledge that helped reinforce my studies and learned more about our equine companions.

## WHAT YOU DID

There were three main tasks involved in my internship:

### Youth Extension –

- Camp Cloverbud (Weld County) –
  - Taught ages 5-8 about basic equine first aid by cleaning and bandaging basic wounds on a plastic model.
- CSU Horse Camp –
  - Led lessons on equine facial markings, coat color genetics, and digestive systems.
- Weld County Fair –
  - I volunteered during the Youth 4H fair to assist in horse shows.

### Research –

- Stocking Rate –
  - We conducted a stocking rate study of horses per acre in non-irrigated pastures in Northern Colorado Region.
- Teff Grass Fertilizers –
  - We took data samples of nutritional value of teff grass when different fertilizers were used.

### Community Outreach –

- ETRC tours –
  - I aided in guiding potential CSU students through the Equine Teaching and Research Center.
- County Fairs –
  - Attended county fairs and engaged with audiences to discuss the Equine Industry.

## WHAT YOU LEARNED

Throughout my time with CSU Equine Extension, I gained valuable skills in animal husbandry, verbal communication skills, and equine specific topics as outlined before starting.

### Animal Husbandry –

- Learned about Colorado-specific equine care practices via stocking rate studies.

### Verbal Communication Skills –

- Strengthened written skills via writing fact sheets based upon research.
- I worked on public speaking skills by leading equine-centered lectures and educational events for youth audiences.

### Equine-Specific Topics –

- Gained hands-on research experience in equine-specific topics (nutrition, stocking rate, etc.).
- Applied equine-specific knowledge by planning educational events, aiding in 4H, and assisting in research studies.

## NEXT STEPS

My next steps include furthering my academic research using the skills learned with CSU Equine Extension. While continuing to pursue a bachelors in Animal Science, I hope to work with CSU staff to continue equine research.

Figure 1. Teff Grass Research Study



Figure 2. Camp Cloverbud and Stocking Rate

