

Equine Science Option Internships

by Kathy Anderson, UNL Extension Horse Specialist, Associate Professor and Kathy Potthoff, 4-H Extension Associate

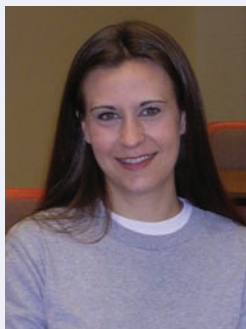
Horse industry enthusiasts now may graduate from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln with an equine science option that pays tribute to their specialization. The option has been available since fall semester 2006 in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Department of Animal Science.

Through the options internship program, students work with state extension horse specialist Kathy Anderson to determine the focus of the internship, allowing input about student interests and needs. Employers will have confidence that these students are well-rounded in the horse and animal industries and did not just pick up a few horse-related classes here and there. The students have acquired the most up-to-date informa-

tion about horses ranging from reproduction, health care, nutrition, selection and general management, making them more appealing to employers. These students have a true focus in the horse industry, instead of having an implied concentration.

The Equine Science Option is similar to the five other Animal Science Options in that it combines a variety of general education courses with the equine-specific courses. These courses provide undergraduate students a balance between basic scientific principles of equine science and opportunities to attain the practical experience needed to have successful careers. See <http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/undergraduate/optionscourses.html> for details.

Former interns share some of their experiences:



McNeeley

Hey y'all. I'm **Jennifer McNeeley**, an animal science major. Originally I come from Des Moines, Iowa but have moved around quite a bit and ended up most recently here in Lincoln. My major has allowed me to focus on animal production and management with my passion of horses. This past year I obtained and completed an independent study and internship at BKT Arena, a small local boarding facility. I was interned as a sort of unofficial assistant manager, which included horse management, resource allocation and bookkeeping. I learned quite a bit about the horse industry and what it takes to be a successful business. I would recommend a similar opportunity for any person interested in the equine industry. Many opportunities are available to work in a boarding stable ranging from stall cleaner to manager and horse trainer. I really suggest starting at the bottom to work

your way up because that will give you the most interaction and hands-on experience that will come in handy later as a manager. Schooling also is very important to this career because you must have technical knowledge ranging from nutritional requirements and overall health to accounting and business practices. If an opportunity presents itself to you within the horse industry, take it...you'll be amazed at what you'll learn about yourself and the animals.



Salach

My name is **Craig Sallach**. My hometown is Albion, Neb. For my internship I worked at JADA Training, where I was in charge of stall cleaning and general horse care. I also helped work horses and learned a lot about training English show horses. I already had some experience in training Western horses, but picked up a lot more knowledge while working as an intern. Along with training knowledge, I also got a lot better at talking to people.

Calendar

More information will be available as the dates get closer.

Jan. 22-Feb. 26

Equestrian Academy, available each Tuesday at several sites across Nebraska via satellite download.

Feb. 9-10

Horsin Around, featuring Bill and Tina Kaven of Gordonville, Texas. R. B. Warren Arena, UNL Animal Science Complex, Lincoln, Neb.

Feb. 23

UNL Spring Equestrian Team Show R. B. Warren Arena, UNL Animal Science Complex, Lincoln, Neb.

March 7-9

Nebraska 4-H Horse Expo, Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln, Neb.

April 18-19

50th Anniversary UNL Rodeo, Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln, Neb.

June 4-7

College Bound Equestrian Camps, Level 3, R. B. Warren Arena, UNL Animal Science Complex, Lincoln, Neb.

June 8-11

College Bound Equestrian Camps, Level 2, R. B. Warren Arena, UNL Animal Science Complex, Lincoln, Neb.

June 9-20

Nebraska District 4-H Horse Shows, Six shows with locations to be announced.

July 14-17

Nebraska State 4-H Horse Show, Grand Island, Neb.

Sept. 23-28

Aksarben, Quest Center, Omaha, Neb.