

Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program  
2008 HIGHLIGHTS

**FRTEP UNIT:** Nez Perce Reservation, Idaho

**PROGRAM AREA:** Agriculture & Adult/Youth Development - Equine

**PROGRAM TITLE:** Horsemanship

**ISSUE(S) ADDRESSED:** The Nez Perce Tribe has developed its own breed of horse and horse registry. The horse is an important part of the Nez Perce culture and history and the Tribe owns over 50 horses. The Tribe wants its members to have a “connection” to the horses. Many tribal members do not own a horse and most do not have a place to keep a horse. In addition, there are residents on the reservation who own horses but have minimal knowledge about horse care and horsemanship. There was no educational program in place to teach basic horsemanship and horse care.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** The target audience is adults and youth of all ages who have an interest in learning more about horses and improving their horsemanship skills. The FRTEP Educator is teaching horsemanship and providing riding lessons on an appointment basis – either individually or as small family groups. In addition, a 2 credit class was offered in basic horsemanship and additional courses for credit will be offered in the near future. There have been 73 participants, between the ages of 3 and 66, since April 2008.

**PROGRAM IMPACT:** Participants increased their knowledge and demonstrated how to safely handle a horse on the ground, including grooming, picking up feet, saddling, and bridling. In addition, participants have gained confidence and skill in controlling a horse. In addition, many have decreased their fear of horses and have improved their balance and riding skills. Several students have made decisions about horse ownership as a result of their participation.

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