The Tarrant County Extension Horse Literacy Project is not one "stand alone" event. Rather it is the culmination of months of prior planning and numerous coordinated activities. These include the "Giddy Up To Read" literacy program for Fort Worth and Everman Independent School District fourth grade students with a curriculum related to education about horses and a reading contest sponsored by the Tarrant County Extension Horse Committee. For the previous two years our contacts have been 31 classrooms of students participating, with 170 students reading the minimum of 300 minutes for a total of 130,099 minutes read. That's more than 2,100 hours of reading motivated by the project! Sharon Williams, a fourth grade teacher at Tanglewood Elementary, FWISD noted, "The Giddy Up to Read" contest provided a perfect opportunity to encourage my ESL (English as a Second Language) students to read. The use of the horse as the focus of reading definitely increased the amount of time that the children read."

"100 Horses To School" supplemented the horse literacy program activities with students at participating elementary schools in Tarrant County being visited by a horse and an Extension volunteer. Students also learned how horses evolved from a food source to a beast of burden to a tool to teach life skills and enhance the quality of life, with the highlight – being able to actually see and touch a live horse. Over 19000 youth have had the opportunity to learn more about equines due to the "100 Horses To School" project in the past two years, and have been encouraged to read about horses to increase their knowledge.

Program Sponsors/Collaborators
Tarrant County Extension Horse Committee, Fort Worth ISD Special Projects Division, Everman ISD, Black Stallion Literacy Project, Reeves International (Breyer Model Horses), Fort Worth Mounted Patrol, Martindale Feed Mill, Ponies Of America, Ag Workers Mutual Auto Insurance

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