



Working Ranch Horse Program

A Practical Training Guide



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Working Ranch Horse Program

Introduction

The 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program is an exciting addition to the already popular 4-H Horse Program. It provides an opportunity for youth to be involved in western horsemanship activities beyond the traditional show ring. Participants learn the age-old techniques of handling livestock while on horseback, as well as the leadership and responsibility that comes with being engaged in 4-H.

The purpose of this guide is to instruct in the safe and effective use of western horses for the purpose of handling, sorting, and moving cattle. It also addresses the techniques and skills of safe, humane, useful roping of livestock while mounted on the western horse.

This is a practical guide. The intent is to give readers a small insight into the world of cowboys and buckaroos, and their jobs of taking care of livestock on horseback. Efforts will be made to not duplicate the materials found in the conventional 4-H manuals and materials. Reference to those documents, as well as other helpful materials, will be given at different points throughout this training guide.

Participants will:

- Care for and manage one or more horses.
- Keep records of what they do.
- Complete a portfolio or record book each year
- Improve skills as a horseperson by working for advancement in the horse program.
- Participate in demonstrations, public speaking, leadership, community service and more.
- It is recommended that participants own their project animals. If this is not possible, we suggest making arrangements with the owner to have them under the participants care and management.





Code of the West



LIVE EACH DAY WITH COURAGE

Take pride in your work

Always finish what you start

Do what has to be done

Be tough, but fair

When you make a promise, keep it.

Ride for the Brand

TALK LESS, SAY MORE

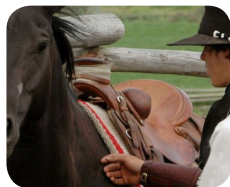
Remember that some things are not for sale

Know where to draw the line

~Jim Owen



Working Ranch Horse Guide Contents



Section 1: Horses & Horsemanship 4



Section 2: Equipment
Officer Qualifications & Roles..... 6



Section 3: Livestock
How to apply..... 11



Section 4: Roping
Role, Responsibilities, & Schedule..... 15



Appendix
Glossary of Terms & References..... 20



Units 1, 2, 3
Working Ranch Horse worksheets etc..... 23



Horses & Horsemanship



The 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program is designed to help participants expand their knowledge and skills with horses.

Horses are a working cowboy's most important tool, and the mainstay of the 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program. In this program youth and leaders are encouraged to learn about what can be referred to as natural horsemanship. This is the concept of horse and handler bonding through communication and understanding of the horses' natural instincts. For more detailed information on horses and horse breeds, please refer to *Horsemanship* and *Horse Science* from the National 4-H Council.

The basic idea is the application of pressure and release. Pressure signals to the horse a need for an action. The pressure can be as simple as the touch of a rider's leg against the horses' rib cage or a handler on foot stepping inside the animal's flight zone. These movements are never done with intimidation or fear. Once the action, or at least an effort to perform that action, is accomplished the pressure is released thereby rewarding the animal.

Natural horsemanship is not something new. It has been around for as long as humans and horses have been working together. Today, hundreds of people are traveling the world teaching clinics on this technique of horse and human interaction. When selecting a teacher or mentor, participants in the 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program should be careful to find someone who is knowledgeable and able to work agreeably with people as well as horses.

Listed are some individuals who are recognized as leaders in the natural horsemanship industry:

- Buck Brannaman – www.brannaman.com
- Chris Cox – www.chris-cox.com
- Bryan Nuebert – www.bryanneubert.com



Horses & Horsemanship Safety

The most important factor to consider when being involved in any horseback activity is safety. Even the most gentle of all horses can be dangerous in certain circumstances. Horses are very large animals with individual personalities, and should be respected as such. Riders should always be responsible and never put themselves in a position that would endanger them, their horse, or the livestock they are handling. It is important to always exercise caution when involved with large animals.



When approaching a horse and moving around the animal, always make sure that your presence is made aware. Startling a horse can cause them to use their defense mechanisms which could result in injury to a horseperson.

Common Unsafe Situations

- 1.** **Sitting sideways, backwards, standing in the saddle, or sitting with a leg cocked around the saddle horn.** Any of these situations can result in a fall from the saddle and possible injury.
- 2.** **Approaching any horse without warning the animal of your advance.** Always speak to the animal so it knows you're coming, especially when approaching from the rear. When approaching a horse always look at his eye and ears to see if he knows that you are coming towards him.
- 3.** **Standing in an unsafe place around a horses legs or feet.** A horse may unexpectedly lift a foot to remove a fly, or change stance. Always be aware of your location in relation to your horses' feet and be ready to move if you need to.



Cowboy vs. Buckaroo

Cowboys and Buckaroos differ in equipment and techniques used to manage cattle.

Origins of the Cowboy

The Vaquero of Mexico has often been credited as the forerunner of the American Cowboy. In Texas, where thousands of wild cattle ran free in the mid-1800's, young American men began using the skills of the vaqueros to round them up and market them for their hides and carcasses. This way of making a living became especially popular in the post-Civil War era for men who needed jobs and important to a growing nation that needed beef. Hence, the mounted livestock handler known as a Cowboy came into being.

In today's ranching world a cowboy is often recognized by the style of hat he wears and the equipment used in the plying of his skills. Most cowboys will have a hat with the brims turned up on the sides, a saddle with swells, a dally horn covered in rubber or cotton rope, and a 30-35 foot lariat. Some cowboys will tie the rope to their saddle horn, a feat known as being, "tied hard and fast." Cowboy bridles will often feature grazing type bits and split leather reins.

Origins of the Buckaroo

In the 1800's, on the west coast side of the continent vaqueros were rounding up cattle to be sold in the "hide and tallow trade" as well as the market for beef. These "Californios," as they were known, took great pride in not only their livestock handling skills, but also their outstanding ability as horsemen. They perfected the use of the hackamore and the spade bit. The fame of their horsemanship spread far and wide across the country. This was the forerunner of the modern day Buckaroo.

In the Spanish language the consonant "v" is pronounced like an English "b". So instead of pronouncing vaquero as it is spelled, it became baquero and eventually morphed into buckaroo. Today the traditions of those early Californios linger on. Buckaroos will be found riding a slick fork saddle (no swells), using a horn wrapped in mule hide, and carrying a 60 foot lariat or rawhide reata that is never tied to the horn, but always dallied. Buckaroo bridles will be hackamores, snaffle bits, or spade bits. Mecates and Rommel reins are preferred to split leather. In the last couple of decades Buckaroos have been recognized for their flat brim, flat crowned hats typifying the old Californio style.

Buckaroo cow outfits will also handle cattle a little differently, though the same basic principles of livestock handling always apply. Instead of corralling cattle for sorting or branding, buckaroos will sometimes form a "rodear" where cattle are held in a flat area by riders instead of fences. This is because of the large open country of the Great Basin where corrals can be few and far between. The term rodear is thought to be the origin of the word "rodeo."

Cowboys and Buckaroos today

The type of equipment that a cowboy or buckaroo uses has always been a matter of personal preference, and in the past was a function of location. Now a sort of hybrid cowboy has appeared who uses the best of both worlds. It is not uncommon to see a Wade-tree saddle in Texas or a Modified Association saddle with a lariat rope tied hard and fast in Nevada. It all comes down to personal preference.

Part of the 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program is for participants to become familiar with the different types of equipment and gear used by working cowboys.



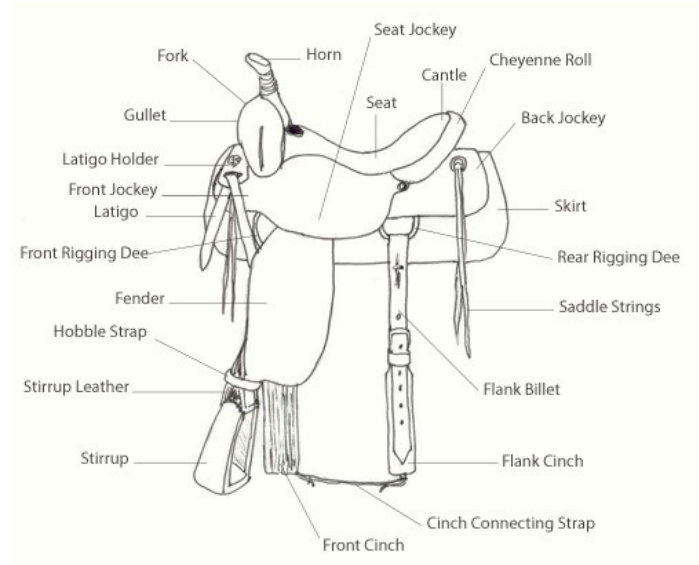
Saddles

Saddles

Saddles are the most personal piece of equipment that a cowboy owns. Saddles come in many different styles, sizes, and shapes. It is important to have a saddle that is strong enough and the appropriate type for the work being done.

Saddle Trees

The foundation of every saddle is its tree. The saddle tree is the frame upon which everything is built. Many saddle trees preferred for ranch work are crafted from quality wood and covered in rawhide. There are a variety of different saddle tree types available.



Western Saddle Guide, 2008

5 Basic Parts of a Saddle Tree

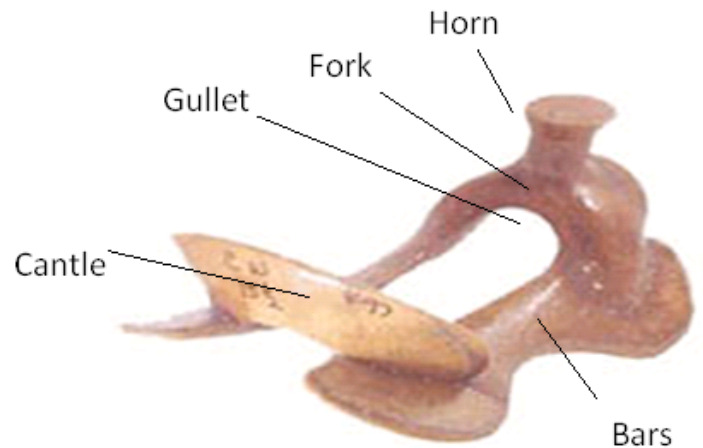
1. Bars The two sections of the tree that run parallel to each other, and rest on the horses' back to distribute the weight of saddle and rider evenly. Bars are generally categorized as Regular Quarter Horse Bars, Semi- Quarter Horse Bars (wider gullet), Full Quarter Horse Bars (wider still), and Extra-wide Quarter Horses Bars (widest of all). Arabian Bars are the same width as Full Quarter Horse Bars with a flatter pitch.

2. Fork The fork holds the bars together at the front of the saddle creating a place for the horn to be mounted. Also known as the swell.

3. Horn Located at the front of the fork and the most well known part of a western saddle.

4. Cante The cante is located at the back of the saddle and connects the bars together. It serves as a backrest and prevents the rider from sliding off the back of the saddle.

5. Gullet The cutout or tunnel underneath the fork is called the gullet.



Western Saddle Part Characteristics

Western saddles also have other characteristics such as horn type, cante type and height, round or square skirts, and type of rigging. Below is a brief description of these saddle parts.

Horn

Horns come in different heights and diameters depending on how they will be used. A dally horn may be tall and thin, a horn for tying hard and fast will be shorter, and a Nevada Post Horn will have a much larger diameter.



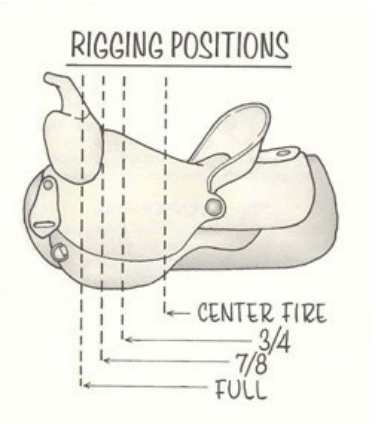
Cantle Cantles can be short or tall, sloped or straighter, dished out or flat. A professional tie-down roper will have a 2 inch cantle, while a working cowboy will have a cantle that is 4 to 5 inches tall. Some cantles will have a piece of leather protruding from the top and flattening towards the back of the saddle. This is known as a “Cheyenne Roll.”

Skirts

Saddle skirts can be square, round, or somewhere in between.

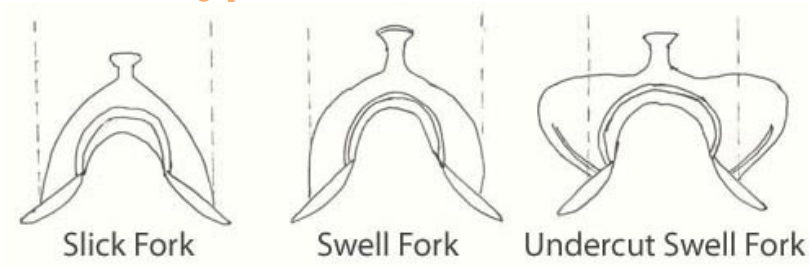
Rigging

The rigging is how the hardware and cinches attach to the saddle tree. A saddle with only one cinch is called a single rig and one with front and rear cinches is called a double rig. There are three types of riggings in the western saddle; the Dee Ring style, the In-skirt style, and the Flat Plate. The rigging of a saddle will determine where the front cinch will go around the horses’ body.



Western Saddle Guide, 2008

Saddle Types



Western saddles are identified by fork type. The most popular styles are slick fork and swell fork saddles.



Saddle on Wade tree with no swells



Nevada Post Horn built on a Modified Association tree with swell and a dally horn



Blankets and Pads

It is important to pad a horses' back to keep it from becoming sore, but it is also possible to put too much cover between the horse and saddle. A pad and a blanket are ample cover for most all riding. In today's market there are blanket/pad combinations that are very effective in taking care of the working ranch horse. Imitation Navajo saddle blankets are very common, and if you know where to go in the Southwest, hand-made double-woven Navajo blankets can still be found.

Cinches

Cinches are made from many different materials. It is important to have cinch that breathes and allows air to circulate against the horses' hide. Flat buckles and rings are important so as not to gall a horse or make them sore.

Cinches, saddle pads, and blankets need to be kept clean. It is difficult to get the dirt and sweat out of the fabrics, and sometimes it becomes necessary to soak them overnight to loosen up the crud. Another effective way is to use a pressure washer to do the job.

Chaps/Leggings

Cowboys in the desert southwest found it necessary to wear heavy leather chaps known as batwings that cover their entire leg because of the thick brush they ride in every day. Buckaroos of the Great Basin region started wearing a knee length chap made of lighter leather known as "chinks." Today, with cowboys working on ranches in many varied parts of the country, different styles of chaps are seen just about everywhere. Shotgun chaps, that fit around the entire leg and zip up the side, are popular most places, especially where it is cold in the winter.

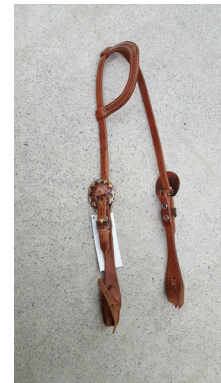
Hackamore, Bits, and the Bridle

It is important to become familiar with different types of headgear available for horses and the purposes they serve. Along with that, it is necessary to know the different types of mouthpieces used in the western bit and the subtle differences between types.

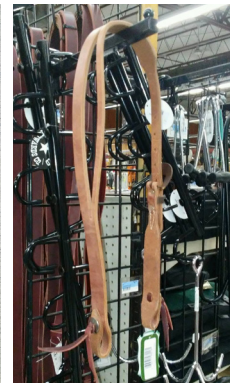
A western bridle is made up of four different parts: the headstall, bit, curb strap, and reins. Headstalls come in several distinctive styles, and like most equipment a cowboy uses, they are a matter of personal preference. Headstalls can be of very fancy design or just plain leather.



Browband



Slide or Slip
Ear



Split Ear



Typical Hackamore Setup

The Jaquima or Hackamore consists of a braided bosal (nose piece), a hanger (headstall), and a mecate (reins). The hackamore is used in different stages of training of the young horse. Cowboys may choose to start a young horse in the hackamore as a means of protecting the horses' mouth. Buckaroos will start a horse in a snaffle bit and then move into the bosal when the horse is losing its baby teeth around 4-5 years of age and the bridle teeth are erupting. Eventually the horse will be ridden in the two-rein, a combination of the hackamore and a bridle bit. As training progresses the hackamore will be removed and the horse is ridden with a bridle only. This is known as being "straight up in the bridle."



Bits

Bits are made up of basically two parts: the mouthpiece and the shank. Bits, like headstalls, can be very fancy or can be plain and practical. It is important to match each horse with the appropriate bit that is not only comfortable for the animal, but also brings out the most effective performance. Learning about bits and how they act upon a horses' mouth and head set is important for anyone trying to become a functional horse-person.

Examples of various bit types



Traditional Spade



Salinas



Low Curb with Roller



Regular or Low Curb



Mona Lisa



Frog

* Information and pictures from J.M. Capriola Company, Elko, NV



Livestock

The sole purpose of a cowboy or buckaroo is to take care of cattle while mounted on horseback. In order to do this, they not only need to be well versed in the skills and techniques of handling livestock, but also have a working knowledge of the attributes of those animals.

Cattle

There are hundreds of breeds of cattle in the United States and thousands of combinations of these breeds that make up a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors of crossbreds. In order to be effective in handling cattle it is necessary to recognize the most prominent breeds and know how to identify their crossbred offspring.

Beef Breeds and Crosses

Black Angus - Medium size frame, black in color.

Red Angus - Medium size frame, red in color.

Hereford - Medium sized breed, red in color with white faces, feet, tail ends, and white strip over the top of the shoulders.

Brangus - Tall, lengthy animal black or red in color. Originally developed through the crossing of Brahman and Angus. They always have the long, floppy ear of their Brahman ancestors.

Simmental - Large in size, originally possessing red and white markings similar to those of the Hereford, but are now mostly all red or black in color.

Hereford/Angus Cross - Very popular as a mother cow on many western ranches because of its hardiness. The animal is either black or red with a white face. May have black or red around the eyes.

Charolais (Sharlay) - Large frame size, white, beige, or light tan in color.

Charolais/Angus Cross - Smokey or mouse colored. May have a very short, thin tail known as a "rat tail."



Black Angus



Hereford



Charolais



Cattle Handling

Handling cattle is the most important work of a cowboy. Most of the skills used by modern cowboys and buckaroos can be traced to the early Spanish vaqueros that rode the ranges of North and South America centuries ago. Learning how to sort, cut, or move a herd of cattle can take decades of hands on experience to master. It is a never ending process of learning.

In any cattle handling situation, work slowly and deliberately. Cattle that become “jazzed up” are far more difficult to deal with, and can even be dangerous. Animals that become stressed lose weight and that defeats the purpose of beef production. Cattle can very seldom be forced. They need to think that they are escaping the pressure that you as a cowboy are applying when driving a herd or sorting out a single animal.

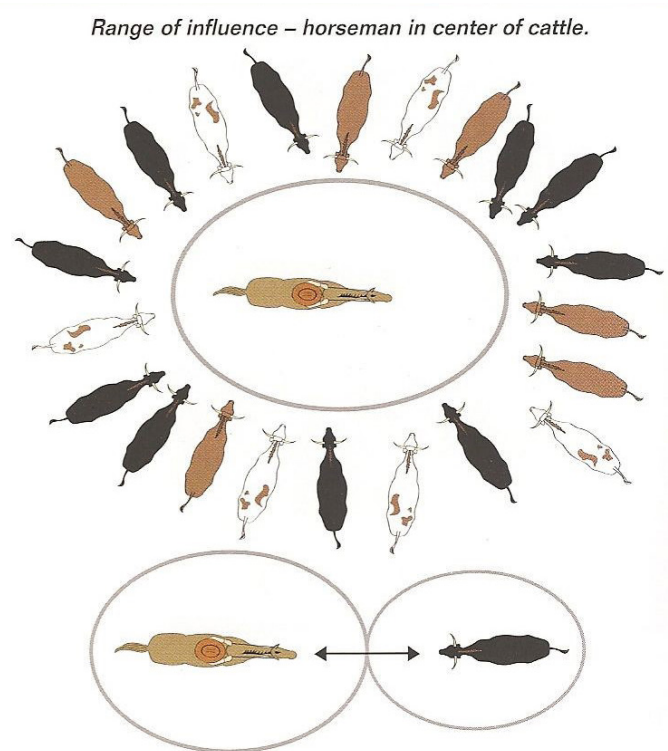
Bubble or Flight Zone -

The immediate area around a cow

Anytime a human enters that bubble or flight zone a cow becomes stressed and wants to flee. The idea is for the rider to control that animal's flight, and have her escape in the direction desired by the handler.

Handling cattle can be compared to pushing two magnets across the top of a metal table. The fine line between keeping the flow going and having the magnets reverse polarity and click against one another cannot be seen. It has to be felt. The mechanics behind making cattle move in the desired direction centers on two concepts: reading a cow's mind and correctly using her flight zone. (O'Byrne, 2005)

How does a cowboy learn to read a cow's mind? It comes from years of repetition in handling cattle, and when encountering a cow remembering how it previously behaved. The trick is being able to identify where the edge of the animal's flight zone is, and then operating at that point to initiate movement. A cowboy moves in and out of that bubble causing the animal to begin moving in the desired direction. To achieve the desired result, a cowboy needs to have his horse in the proper position and to be thinking ahead about what will happen.

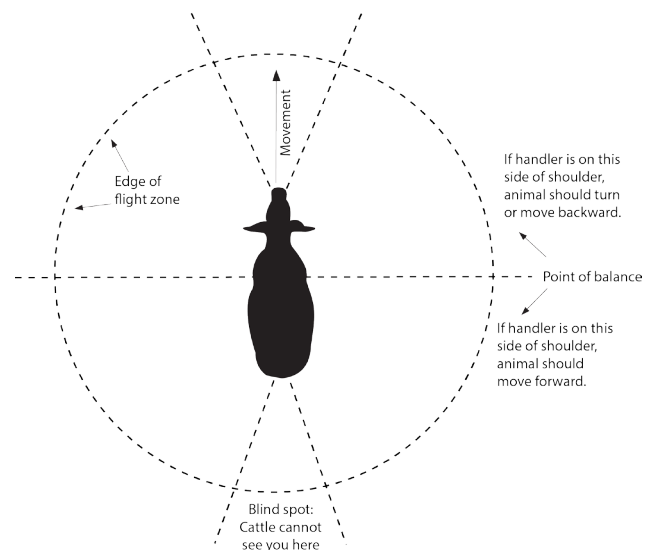


Range of influence – horseman in center of cattle.

The horseman's range of influence touches the edge of the cow's flight zone.



By making a range of influence adjustment, the horseman causes the calf to turn and move away from the increased pressure.





Cattle Identification and Marking

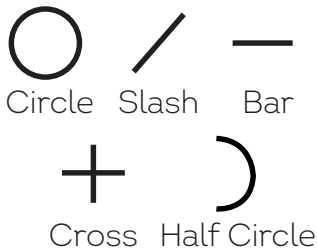
Most ranching states still require, by law, that all cattle be branded as a means of identification. Brand ownership is registered with the state and is the legal property of the ranch. Brands are generally applied to the shoulder, ribs, hip, or thigh of an animal on either side of its body. Most brands are still applied hot; however freeze branding is beginning to be used more.

Branding

Branding cattle, as a means of identification, has been around for centuries. Drawings on the walls of ancient Egyptian tombs show cattle being branded. In most western states, a brand is a legal means of establishing legal ownership of livestock,

Examples of Brands - Capital letters, symbols, numbers, pictures or a combination of any of these make up brands. Brands can be read from top to bottom, left to right, right to left or bottom to top.

Common Symbols



Common Terms



Calling or Reading

When calling or reading a brand follow these basic guidelines

1. Read left to right
2. Read top to bottom
3. Read from outside in



Branding Techniques and Processes

In order for an animal to be branded it has to be restrained. Most ranches still use the time honored method of “dragging calves to the fire.” This involves the process of a rider on horseback roping a calf by the heels or around the neck and dragging it from the herd to the branding fire. At the fire the calf is restrained by a crew of people on the ground or held by the heels by the cowboy and his horse.

Some outfits use a “Deadman” as part of their branding repertoire. A Deadman consists of an inner tube tied by a rope to a stake driven in the ground. A rope coming from the inner tube is looped around the calf’s front legs as he comes dragging by. As this rope tightens it restrains the front end of the calf while the roper and his horse hold the hind legs. The inner tube provides some give and take when the calf struggles during the branding process. A metal device known as a “Nord Fork” can be attached to the inner tube and slipped over the calf’s head to restrain the front end, and aids in a quick release of the animal when the procedure is completed. Buckaroo outfits generally will head and heel every calf, and restrain both ends on horseback.

While the animal is being branded, it also receives several vaccinations and the male calves are castrated. Most ranches also have a registered earmark which is created by cutting the animal’s ears into the design owned by the outfit. For example, the ears may have the ends cropped off or a wedge cut from the top line or the bottom line may be trimmed at an angle.



Health Care

One of the most important and time consuming jobs that a cowboy or buckaroo has at any ranch is providing health care for the animals. Many cowboys become very adept at many aspects of veterinary work. They can perform caesarean sections, stitch up wounds, and test cows for pregnancy. For most ranches a veterinarian may be miles away, and not available for emergencies.

Signs to watch for in cattle:

A healthy cow

- Looks content
- Eats well
- spends time lying down after eating
- chew their cud

An uncomfortable cow

- stands with their head down, or belly tucked up and their back arched
- Droopy/drowsy appearance
- Ears hanging down or at an unnatural position
- Snotty nose and/or runny eyes
- Shaggy hair, not slick and shiny
- Any type of swelling
- Limping or sore movement
- No desire to rustle feed

3 Vital Signs of Cattle

Body Temp: 100.4 F - 103.1 F

Pulse (heart rate): 40-70 heartbeats per minute

Respiratory rate (number of breaths per minute) 10-30 breaths per minute

Age, exercise, heat, pregnancy, and illness can affect these vital signs.

Preventing Disease

Along with taking care of sick animals, all ranches have health care programs for the animals they raise. These may include vaccinations and/or de-worming at branding time, preconditioning of calves for market, pregnancy checking of the mother cow herd, and fertility testing of the bull battery.

Having a vaccination schedule will help to keep the animals healthy. Some of the common vaccines are for: vibriosis, leptospirosis, trichomoniasis, and clostridial diseases. All breeding heifers before they are yearlings should be vaccinated with brucellosis vaccine. Always check with your local veterinarian for any diseases in your area. A good de-worming, sanitation, management and nutrition schedule are important. Keeping a facility dry, and a good nutrition program of cattle can prevent extra costs.



Roping



A rope is a tool that is necessary when handling cattle out on the range. The skill of using that rope has grown from just being able to catch something and get the job done to creating magnificent works of art with the flick of a wrist. It takes hours and hours of practice for a person to become proficient with a lariat rope.

Lariats

Lariat ropes are made from several different materials such as polyester, nylon, manilla, maguey, or combinations of these. They come in many different lengths and diameters. The type of rope used by each cowhand comes down to personal preference.

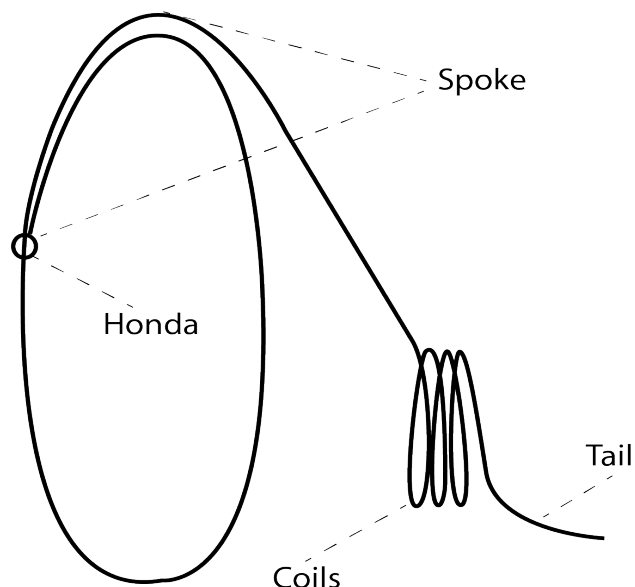
Buckaroos prefer a rope made of polyester or nylon, with a smaller diameter, and 60 feet in length. The polyester or “poly” rope has a similar feel to that of the rawhide braided reata still used by many Great Basin Buckaroos. Other cowboys may prefer a rope made from nylon with a more firm feel to it. Ranch cowboys hardly ever use a rope that is very stiff. It is difficult to use different swings and throw off-hand loops with a stiff rope.

Nylon ranch ropes come in 5/16, 3/8, or 7/16 diameter. Lay describes the firmness of the nylon rope. They come in x-soft, soft, medium-soft, and so on. Poly ranch ropes are measured in millimeters and come in 9mm, 9.5mm, or 10mm. Poly ropes do not come in different lays. Nylon ropes maintain their feel no matter what the weather does. Poly ropes will become limper in the cold. In the past, many lariats were made from manila grown in the Philippines. These ropes were much weaker than today’s ropes, and became limp as a dish rag when the weather got hot or stiff when they were wet and cold.

All ranch ropes are generally twisted from three strands of material, but can also be made from four strands. Ropes made for left handed ropers are twisted in the opposite direction from those made for right handed cowboys. It is important to coil a rope according to the way it is twisted. Improperly coiled ropes are the chief cause of loops turning into a figure eight.

Rope

The parts of a rope



A properly coiled rope can mean the difference between making a successful catch or coming up empty handed. It can also be the reason a roper comes home with all fingers still attached.

Having your rope coiled properly can make or break your success as a roper. If your coils are twisted or uneven it can cause your loop to figure eight, or it can even cause you to become entangled in your rope which is very dangerous. It is important to always take the time to make sure that your lariat is coiled properly.

Hondas (Hondoo)

The small opening at the end of the rope through which the tail passes to form the loop.

A Honda can be anything from a small loop tied in the end of the rope to a braided rawhide oval attached to a nylon or poly lariat. There are many commercial Hondas on the market made from metal or rawhide. These commercial Hondas attached to a rope add extra weight when throwing the loop.





Dallying



Dallying is the process of wrapping the lariat around the saddle horn in a counter clockwise direction once an animal has been roped. This is in contrast to working “tied hard and fast” where the end of the rope is secured to the horn with a knot or some type of keeper.

Dallying allows the roper to have more control over his quarry by being able to let the rope slip around the horn if necessary or being able to “spin loose” and set the animal free if things go wrong.

If not done correctly, dallying can be a dangerous undertaking. It should always be done with the roper’s thumb pointed up and out of the way. Dallying should be practiced extensively before something wild and out of control is on the end of the rope. The number of dallies or turns that you make around the horn is in direct relationship with the size of the animal on the end of the rope. If the horn is wrapped with mule hide or any other type of leather it may take at least three or more dallies to hold even a big calf.

A horn wrapped in rubber will require maybe only one or two wraps.

Roping on a horn without rubber does have its advantages. If danger arises it becomes much easier to pop your dallies (turn them loose) on a slick horn than on a rubber wrapped surface. A slick horn also allows you to slip or let your dallies slide if you need to reposition yourself and your horse.

Holding the Reins and the Coils

The reins and the coils are both held in the left hand because the right hand is typically throwing the rope. There are different ways to hold the reins such as running them up through your hand between your ring and small fingers or running downwards between your thumb and forefinger. The coils are added to this grip, resting in your palm and supported by the free fingers.

Roping Styles

Working cowboys, over the years, have developed different styles of roping due to the type of country they work in and personal preference.

Swings, loops, and shots

It is important for a working cowboy to learn how to swing a rope in more ways than just the standard overhead swing. There is also the sidearm, underhand, and backhand type swings. Each of these become important depending on the type of loop or "shot" that you want to throw.

Overhead Swing



The overhead swing is the traditional style of swinging a rope before making a catch.

Side arm Swing



The sidearm swing is accomplished by swinging the loop vertically at the side of the body.

Backhand Swing

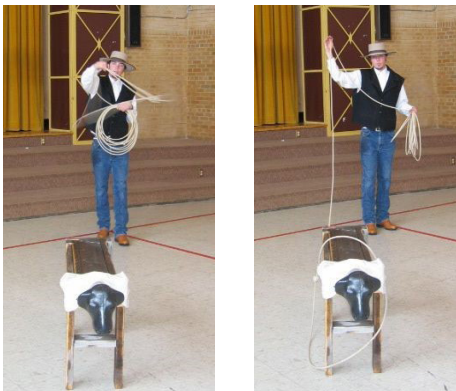


The backhand swing involves swinging the loop in a backwards motion.

Types of shots or loops

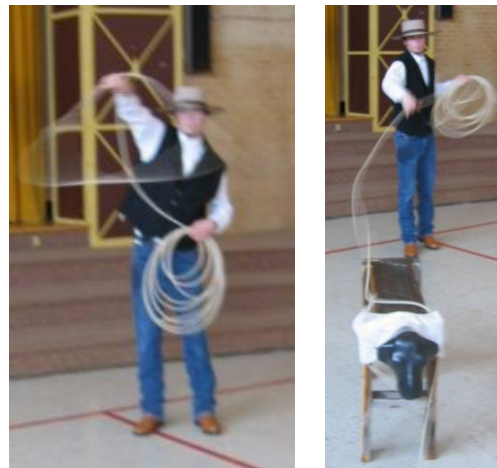
There are a variety of types of shots or loops including overhead swing, sidearm swing, backhand swing, overhead catch, backhand catch, heel trap, hip shot.

Overhead Catch



The overhead catch is accomplished by the roper swinging the loop overhead and throwing straight in front at the animal. This is the traditional catch used in rodeo events, as well as many aspects of ranch work.

Backhand Catch

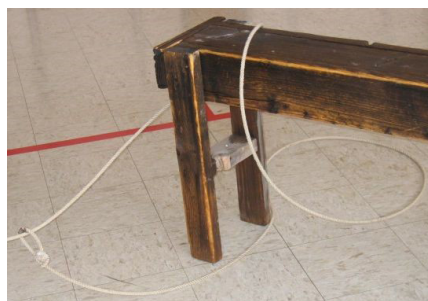


The backhand catch is made by swinging the rope overhead in a backwards direction before releasing to make the catch. This loop can be thrown from many different angles, and is very effective when a roper wants to be quiet and not stir up the herd. There is a difference between a backhand loop and a houlihan.



Hip Shot

The hip shot is made by swinging the rope in a sidearm fashion. The release is made so that the loop travels towards the hindquarters of the animal in a vertical position. The goal is for the loop to hang on the hind end of the calf, at the same time setting a heel trap in front of the rear legs.



Other Shots

Scoop Loop- Catching an animal moving right or left around the neck with an underhand delivery.

Houlihan- flat loop thrown with a backhand swing and delivery, used for catching horses out of a cavy or remuda.





Working Ranch Horse Terms

- **Bad Eye** - a condition of the eye in beef cattle caused by injury or cancer
- **Bag** - mammary glands of a breeding cow or mare
- **Blew up, bogged his head** - when a horse starts bucking
- **Brand** - a mark on an animal to identify and prove ownership, made with a hot or freeze iron. Or the act of placing a brand on an animal.
- **Brogans** - lace up, flat heeled boots or shoes
- **Buck Rolls** - imitation saddle swells attached to slick fork saddles
- **Cavvy** - Buckaroo term for herd of saddle horses containing each man's string
- **Chouse** - to put pressure on cattle
- **Circle** - the area that each cowboy is responsible for during a day's ride.
- **Cork (caulk)** - studs on horseshoes that provide traction
- **Cull** - animal sorted out and removed from the herd for various reasons such as sickness, bad attitude, etc.
- **Dally** - several wraps of the tail of the rope around the saddle horn
- **Dead man** - staked down rope for holding calves at branding
- **Dink** - horse with a poor disposition and more than a few tricks up his sleeve
- **Drag** - riders at the rear of a cattle drive, the back end of the herd
- **Dry Cow** - a non-lactating cow
- **Earmark** - an identifying mark cut into an animal's ear
- **Flank** - side of the herd
- **Graft** - a process of adopting an orphan calf to a new mother
- **Gummer** - old cow with no teeth
- **Gunsel** - a person with little practical knowledge related to cowboying
- **Heavy** - pregnant cow
- **Jingle, Wrangle** - bring in the cavvy or remuda
- **Kack or rig** - saddle
- **Leggins** - chaps
- **Long-trot** - covering a large distance at a fast trot
- **Mastitis** - inflammation of the mammary glands
- **Mecate, McCarty** - a continuous looped rein with a lead rope at one end
- **Muley** - a cow without horns
- **Nord Fork** - a steel brace used to hold calves at branding
- **Oxbows** - round, narrow stirrups
- **Point** - the lead position take by a rider when moving cattle, front of the herd
- **Remuda** - Cowboy term for herd of broke saddle horses containing each man's string
- **Ride for the Brand** - Display unconditional loyalty
- **Rimfired** - when a horse bucks from a rope under his tail
- **Rodear** - Buckaroo term to encircle or hold cattle in a gathering place so that they can be sorted.
- **Savvy** - understand



- **Shorten up** – For a roper to ride up closer to the animal he has captured and remove the slack from his rope
- **Slick** – animal not branded
- **Stampede String** – a string attached to a hat to keep it from coming off a rider's head
- **Steer** – Castrated male bovine
- **Swing** – Riders who position themselves on the outside of the herd while moving cattle
- **Tack** – a word for horse equipment that is very rarely ever used by a cowboy or buckaroo
- **Tapaderos, Taps** – leather stirrup covers of many different styles
- **Wet Cow** – a cow that is producing milk (lactating)
- **Wild Rag** – a silk scarf worn around the neck
- **Yearling** – a animal just over one year of age

Acknowledgements & References

Lee Raine – Cowboy Showcase – For use of her great skills and abilities as a photographer. Most of the photos in this training guide were taken by Lee in her travels throughout the cowboy and buckaroo world. Her web site is the ultimate in information about the modern day West. www.cowboyshowcase.com

Tim O'Byrne – Calico Beef Consulting and Editor, Working Ranch Magazine. Tim is a great resource for all things cowboy. He has worked on and managed some of the largest beef operations in the West. www.handlingcattle.com

Scott McKendrick – USU Equine Specialist. Scott graciously took the time to edit this material. <http://extension.usu.edu/equine/>

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Authors

Jim Keyes

Connie Neal

Josh Dallin

Resources

- *There's Roping to Do* by Joe Wolters, DVD, Steiger Brothers Production
- *Cowboys and Buckaroos* by Tim O'Bryne, Western Horseman Book
- *Ranch Roping with Buck Brannaman*, Western Horseman Book
- *4-H Horsemanship*, National 4-H Publication, Local Extension Office
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UTAH 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program



Unit One

As a 4-H member you will

- Develop life skills
- Learn how to make decisions
- Develop leadership skills
- Become a better citizen
- Increase your self-esteem
- Learn to be a skilled horseman
- Meet new people and make friends
- Have fun

4-H Pledge



I *pledge*
 my *head* to clearer thinking
 my *heart* to greater loyalty
 my *hands* to larger service
 my *health* to better living
 for my club, my community,
 my county, and my world.

This pledge is used by all 4-H member. As a member of a 4-H horse club you can achieve the purpose of the pledge in the following ways:

I Pledge:

My HEAD to clearer thinking. Working with a horse, learning to train and care for one, requires that you study and be able to think quickly, clearly, and be alert at all times.

My HEART to greater loyalty. You will develop a close bond of comradeship with your horse and with other young people in the 4-H horse program. You will learn to be loyal to and considerate of others, including leaders.

My HANDS to larger service. Skillful hands are a must for a good horseman. By the touch of your hands on the reins, you tell your horse what you wish done. You can give to your community through horse related activities.

My HEALTH to better living. Outdoor activity is a very good way for you to develop a healthy body. For my club, my community, my country, and my world. Membership in a 4-H horse club will give you many opportunities to participate in activities that will help you and others become better citizens in your community. You will also find ways to make your community a better place in which to live.

Working Ranch Horse Program

WHAT YOU WILL DO

- Care for and manage one or more horses.
- Keep records of what you do.
- Complete a portfolio or record book each year
- Improve your skill as a horseperson by working for advancement in the horse program.
- Participate in demonstrations, public speaking, leadership, community service and more.
- It is recommended that you own project animals. If this is not possible, you should make arrangements with the owner to have them under your care and management.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

OBJECTIVES

Encourage 4-H Youth to...

- Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, communication skills, decision making skills, self-esteem, and other desirable traits of character. This includes friendship to those both more capable and less capable than yourself.
- Experience the pride of owning a horse or pony and being responsible for its management.
- Develop an appreciation of horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
- Learn skill in horsemanship and using horses as a management tool for handling livestock.
- Increase knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injury to yourself, others and their mounts.
- Promote greater respect for animals and a humane attitude toward them.
- Be better prepared for citizenship responsibilities through working in groups and supporting community horse projects and activities.
- The 4-H Working Ranch Horse advancement program includes many things you can learn. If you follow through and complete all of the suggested requirements for each rank you should be a more experienced horseperson. You can be a member of a 4-H horse club without completing the requirements for all the ranks. Much of what is discussed and done at each club meeting will be taken from the requirements for each of the ranks. It is possible to accomplish a great deal in the 4-H horse program without a horse, but owning or having access to a horse will greatly increase the value of your 4-H experience.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- 4-H Horsemanship
- 4-H Horse Science
- Utah Working Ranch Horse Practical Training Guide

RULES

1. Only leaders can pass off individuals in the progression of the ranks. It cannot be done by a parent. If a parent is a youth's leader, another leader or Extension Educator must pass off the individual.
2. Stallions are not to be used in any 4-H horse project

Utah 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program

Year _____

Name _____ Age ____ Birthday ____/____/____

Address _____

Grade in school completed _____

4-H Club _____ Year in 4-H _____

Years in 4-HWRH Project _____

Member Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Leader Signature _____

Utah 4-H Working Ranch Horse Member Assessment

Skills/Knowledge Tested	Date Passed	Approved By
Anatomy of the Horse		
1. Name, locate and spell the following parts of the horse: poll, muzzle, shoulder, forearm, knee, barrel, girth, flank, rump, hock, fetlock, and pastern.		
2. Name and spell four breeds of horses		
Knowledge of Equipment		
1. Name, locate and spell the following parts of a Saddle: Horn, cantle, dee-rings, fender, pommel, and skirt		
2. Name, locate and spell the following parts of a Bridle: curb strap, headstall, bit, nose band and throat latch.		
3. What are 2 requirements of a saddle blanket?		
4. Describe how to take care of leather, saddle pads and cinches.		
5. Demonstrate how to replace a set of reins, cinch and latigo.		
Feeding		
1. What should you feed your horse?		
2. How much should you feed?		
3. When and how should the horse be fed?		
4. Why should you condition your horse?		
5. How much water does a horse need at work/rest?		
Healthcare		
1. What is the normal temperature of a horse?		
2. What is the normal respiration of a horse?		
3. What is the normal pulse rate of your horse?		
4. Name internal parasites that are common to horses.		
5. Name external parasites that are common to horses.		
6. What is "founder" and how is it treated?		
7. What is "thrush" and how is it treated?		
8. How do you tell if a horse is dehydrated?		

Skills/Knowledge Tested	Date Passed	Approved By
Basic Handling		
1. Halter and tie your horse		
2. Lead your horse.		
3. Brush and groom your horse.		
4. Pick up and clean a front hoof.		
5. Bridle and saddle your horse. (Smaller members should learn the correct methods even if they cannot do them entirely).		
Riding Skills		
1. Mount and dismount		
2. Demonstrate proper use of reins for both direct and neck reining.		
3. Demonstrate the use of correct seat and balance		
4. Demonstrate the basic control for riding your horse at slow gaits: walk, trot, lope, and stop.		
Safety		
1. Name 6 safety rules all 4-H members should observe when working around or riding their horses.		
Basic Handling/Restraint		
1. Demonstrate the use of hobbles and on your horse.		
2. Demonstrate how to accustom your horse to a rope		
3. Demonstrate how to accustom your horse to cattle.		
Horse and Livestock Identification:		
1. What are some methods used for horse identification		
2. What are some methods used for livestock identification		
3. What are two breeds of cattle		
4. What are 4 breeds of horses		
Ranch Working Equipment		
1. List 5 items that may be necessary during a ranch working day		
2. List items in a first aid kit for humans/horses		
Roping		
1. Give the parts of a rope		
2. Show your roping skills by roping a dummy on the ground 8 out of 10 times, 8 feet behind the head and show your recoil skills.		
Youth/Horse working skills		
1. Demonstrate your ability to help sort cattle.		
2. Load your horse safely into a trailer		
3. Lead your horse safely through a gate, open and close the gate		
4. Demonstrate your ability to adapt to different kinds of ranch terrain (up and down hills, cross creeks, brush, trees, etc.)		



Demonstration/Illustrated Talk

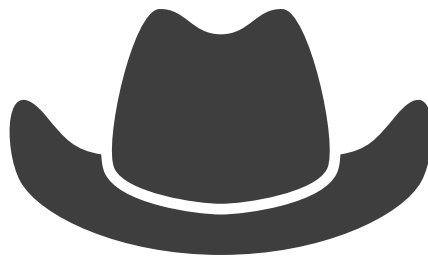
Title of demonstration or talk _____

Presentation Summary:

Utah 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program Unit One Completion Verification

Name of 4-H Member

has passed all of the above requirements and is now a qualified utah 4-H Unit One Working Ranch Horseman.



Approved by:

Volunteer Leader

Date

Local Extension Agent

Date

UTAH 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program



Unit Two

As a 4-H member you will

- Develop life skills
- Learn how to make decisions
- Develop leadership skills
- Become a better citizen
- Increase your self-esteem
- Learn to be a skilled horseman
- Meet new people and make friends
- Have fun

4-H Pledge



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 my *head* to clearer thinking
 my *heart* to greater loyalty
 my *hands* to larger service
 my *health* to better living
 for my club, my community,
 my county, and my world.

This pledge is used by all 4-H member. As a member of a 4-H horse club you can achieve the purpose of the pledge in the following ways:

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My HEALTH to better living. Outdoor activity is a very good way for you to develop a healthy body. For my club, my community, my country, and my world. Membership in a 4-H horse club will give you many opportunities to participate in activities that will help you and others become better citizens in your community. You will also find ways to make your community a better place in which to live.

Working Ranch Horse Program

WHAT YOU WILL DO

- Care for and manage one or more horses.
- Keep records of what you do.
- Complete a portfolio or record book each year
- Improve your skill as a horseperson by working for advancement in the horse program.
- Participate in demonstrations, public speaking, leadership, community service and more.
- It is recommended that you own project animals. If this is not possible, you should make arrangements with the owner to have them under your care and management.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

OBJECTIVES

Encourage 4-H Youth to...

- Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, communication skills, decision making skills, self-esteem, and other desirable traits of character. This includes friendship to those both more capable and less capable than yourself.
- Experience the pride of owning a horse or pony and being responsible for its management.
- Develop an appreciation of horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
- Learn skill in horsemanship and using horses as a management tool for handling livestock.
- Increase knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injury to yourself, others and their mounts.
- Promote greater respect for animals and a humane attitude toward them.
- Be better prepared for citizenship responsibilities through working in groups and supporting community horse projects and activities.
- The 4-H Working Ranch Horse advancement program includes many things you can learn. If you follow through and complete all of the suggested requirements for each rank you should be a more experienced horseperson. You can be a member of a 4-H horse club without completing the requirements for all the ranks. Much of what is discussed and done at each club meeting will be taken from the requirements for each of the ranks. It is possible to accomplish a great deal in the 4-H horse program without a horse, but owning or having access to a horse will greatly increase the value of your 4-H experience.

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2. Stallions are not to be used in any 4-H horse project

Utah 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program

Year _____

Name _____ Age ____ Birthday ____/____/____

Address _____

Grade in school completed _____

4-H Club _____ Year in 4-H _____

Years in 4-HWRH Project _____

Member Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Leader Signature _____

Utah 4-H Working Ranch Horse Member Assessment

Skills/Knowledge Tested	Date Passed	Approved By
Anatomy of the Horse		
1. Spell and define the following terms: filly, mare, sire, dam, conformation and hand		
2. Spell and locate the following: ring bone, curb thorough pin, splint, side bone and hernia		
3. Name, spell and locate the following: sole, frog, wall, gaskin, stifle and cannon		
Knowledge of Equipment		
1. Be able to identify and describe the differences between three types of bits and hackamores		
2. Know how to tie and properly use the bowline, clove hitch and hitching tie.		
3. Be able to show how to properly clean and inspect Horse tack for wear		
4. Assemble a bridle		
Feeding		
1. How many pounds of hay and grain does your horse need to meet nutrition requirements?		
Healthcare		
1. Demonstrate your ability to take the temperature pulse and respiration of a horse.		
2. Explain what to use and the treatments for external and internal parasites.		
3. Using proper technique show how to clean a Horse's hoof		
4. Identify 3 types of horse shoes and sizes		
5. Describe 2 different types of horse wounds		
Basic Handling/Restraint		
1. Demonstrate how to back your horse from the ground		
Riding Skills:		
1. Know and use properly the basic aids required for riding at the walk, trot and lope		
2. Use correct leads while circling both directions at a lope.		
3. Demonstrate a stop from the walk, trot and lope		
4. Back your horse a few steps in a straight line		

Skills/Knowledge Tested	Date Passed	Approved By
Riding Skills:		
1. Know and use properly the basic aids required for riding at the walk, trot and lope		
2. Use correct leads while circling both directions at a lope.		
3. Demonstrate a stop from the walk, trot and lope		
4. Back your horse a few steps in a straight line		
Safety:		
1. Name 3 safety rules when roping		
Basic Handling/Restraint:		
1. Name material from which a set of hobbles could be made.		
2. Show how to train your horse to drag a log		
Horse and Livestock Identification:		
1. Know the horse branding regulations and what happens during a brand inspection		
2. Know the cattle branding regulations and what happens when they are sold.		
Ranch Working Equipment:		
1. List the equipment and gear that may be necessary during a ranch working day.		
Roping:		
1. Demonstrate roping a dummy from your horse and catching 8 out of 10. Also show your ability to recoil and rebuild your loop.		
2. Name 3 different types of swings		
3. Demonstrate how to dally and how to un-dally		
Youth/Horse Working Skills:		
1. Demonstrate your ability to track a cow		
2. Demonstrate your ability to sort and pen cattle		
3. Demonstrate your ability to rope the head of a cow		
4. Demonstrate your ability to rope the heels of a cow		
Leadership:		
1. Coach a younger 4-H member through Unit 1		



Demonstration/Illustrated Talk

Title of demonstration or talk _____

Presentation Summary:

Utah 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program Unit Two Completion Verification

Name of 4-H Member

has passed all of the above requirements and is now a qualified utah 4-H Unit Two Working Ranch Horseman.



Approved by:

Volunteer Leader

Date

Local Extension Agent

Date

UTAH 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program



Unit Three

As a 4-H member you will

- Develop life skills
- Learn how to make decisions
- Develop leadership skills
- Become a better citizen
- Increase your self-esteem
- Learn to be a skilled horseman
- Meet new people and make friends
- Have fun

4-H Pledge



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Working Ranch Horse Program

WHAT YOU WILL DO

- Care for and manage one or more horses.
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WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

OBJECTIVES

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- Develop an appreciation of horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
- Learn skill in horsemanship and using horses as a management tool for handling livestock.
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Utah 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program

Year _____

Name _____ Age ____ Birthday ____/____/____

Address _____

Grade in school completed _____

4-H Club _____ Year in 4-H _____

Years in 4-HWRH Project _____

Member Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Leader Signature _____



Utah 4-H Working Ranch Horse Member Assessment

Skills/Knowledge Tested	Date Passed	Approved By
Anatomy of the Horse		
1. Know the digestive system of the horse		
2. Know the reproductive system of the horse		
3. Be able to explain what unsoundness is and where they can be located		
Feeding		
1. Be able to identify physical problems that are a result of poor nutrition		
2. Be able to name and identify 3 different type of Hay		
3. Be able to name and identify 4 different types of poisonous plants		
Health/Care		
1. Write a disease and parasite prevention program. Be able to discuss the program and methods of disease and parasite control		
2. Name 3 types of vaccinations and tell how to properly administer.		
3. Name 3 diseases in horses that you need to vaccinate for		
4. Name 3 diseases in cattle that you need to vaccinate for		
5. Explain the differences between intramuscular injection and subcutaneous injection		
6. Demonstrate the proper way to wrap a leg		
7. Demonstrate the proper way to do an emergency suture		
8. Know how to tell the age of horse by its teeth		
Basic Handling/Restraint		
1. Demonstrate your ability to pick up each hoof properly, clean and check for disease or injury		
2. Demonstrate how to properly prepare your horse's hoof for shoeing		
3. Demonstrate your ability to replace a shoe on your horse		
Riding Skills		
1. Be able to show a controlled: walk, trot, lope, stop and back		
2. Be able to side pass both directions		
3. Be able to do a 1/2 turn each direction on the forehand and hindquarters		
4. Demonstrate your ability to lope in a circle on the correct lead.		
5. Prepare a written summary of how your horse responded to training. If difficulties were encountered in one or more maneuvers, tell what they were and what you did to correct the problem		



Skills/Knowledge Tested	Date Passed	Approved By
Safety:		
1. Name 4 safety rules while working around cattle		
Horse and Livestock Identification:		
1. Be able to read 10 different brands		
2. Be able to name at least 4 different places for brands on cattle		
3. Be able to name 3 different ways to mark cattle		
Ranch Working Equipment:		
1. Be able to mend a fence		
2. Be able to identify the objects/equipment that you are given and what their purpose is		
Roping:		
1. Demonstrate your ability to rope a calf around the head while mounted on your horse, dally and un-dally		
2. Demonstrate your ability to rope both heels of a calf while mounted on your horse, dally & un-dally		
3. Demonstrate 3 different types of swings.		
Youth/Horse Working Skills:		
1. Demonstrate the ability of your horse to stand without rider mounted, and keep rope tight on the object roped		
2. Show your ability to pack salt and other equipment on your horse.		
3. Demonstrate your ability to open and close gates while mounted.		
4. Demonstrate your ability to lead another horse while you are mounted on your horse		
Leadership:		
1. Coach a younger 4-H member through Unit 1/Unit 2		



Demonstration/Illustrated Talk

Title of demonstration or talk _____

Presentation Summary:

Utah 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program Unit Three Completion Verification

Name of 4-H Member

has passed all of the above requirements and is now a qualified utah 4-H Unit Three Working Ranch Horseman.



Approved by:

Volunteer Leader

Date

Local Extension Agent

Date