

UTAH 4-H HORSE PROJECT

WELCOME TO THE 4-H HORSE PROGRAM!

As a 4-H member, you will –

- Develop life skills of Decision Making, Communication, Leadership, Citizenship, and Self-Esteem.
- Learn to be a skilled horseman
- Meet with your friends
- Have fun

The 4-H Pledge is a very good guide for you to follow –

I pledge—

My HEAD to clearer thinking
My HEART to greater loyalty
My HANDS to larger service, and
MY HEALTH to better living, for
My club, my community, my country, 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.

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. You may have one or more of the following as your project:
 - A riding horse
 - A brood mare
 - A foal
 - A stallion is not eligible for 4-H showing projects, but may be used as a supplemental 4-H project.
- 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 skills in horsemanship and an understanding of the business of breeding, raising, training, working and showing horses.
- 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 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.

RULEBOOK

The *Utah State 4-H Horse Contest Rules* booklet will give you information about showing horses in different classes and will help you prepare to enter horse shows.

SOURCES OF HELP

Sources of help include leaders, parents, extension agents, and other experienced horse people. Using these resources will give you considerable assistance in completing these projects.

Two 4-H manuals are available at the county agent's office for purchase. They are not required, but if you wish to read and study about care and training of your horse, these manuals will be very useful. The *Horses and Horsemanship* manual covers such subjects as breeds, colors, judging, western horsemanship, equipment, grooming and showing safety rules. This manual is a must for learning how to participate more effectively and safely in the 4-H program.

A companion manual is *Horse Science* which will aid in your understanding of the horse's temperament, its needs in terms of feed and health, its anatomy and genetic inheritance. Before you become a horseperson, you need to know how your horse functions and how to satisfy its needs. Only then should you ask the horse to meet your requirements. These two manuals also provide answers to the 4-H Horseshow written test.

There are other bulletins, audio visual materials, etc., available through your local 4-H office and extension agents.

UTAH 4-H RECORD BOOK

These have been prepared to keep a summary of all of your 4-H project work and other 4-H activities in a single record. A well-kept record will be very useful to you when you apply for trips, scholarships and other awards after you have been a 4-H member for a few years. There are many record book competitions for younger (9-13 year olds) as well as older (14-19 year olds) 4-H'ers, so keep your records up-to-date.

CALENDAR

It is suggested that you obtain a calendar with plenty of room to write on so that feed purchases, special activities and events can be recorded. This may be most helpful if tacked up in the barn. Be sure to keep track of feeds purchased, vaccinations, etc.

UTAH 4-H HORSE MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL RECORD

In addition to tables where you will write the summary information on feed and other expenses taken from the calendar, other items of value are to be kept on this record insert sheet. Take time each week to keep the record up-to-date. These insert sheets become your permanent 4-H horse project records. Your leader will help you get a green 4-H cover in which to keep your records for your 4-H Record Book or portfolio.

4-H HORSE ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

The Utah 4-H Advancement Program Ranks will:

- Add skills and knowledge to your 4-H horse project
- Give you, your parents and your leaders a guide to measure your ability as a horseperson
- Help you learn more about horses and horsemanship
- Help you develop greater skills with horses.
- Give you credit for extra work done.
- Allow you to advance according to your ability and your willingness to work and study.

This program is an important part of your 4-H horse project. Although advancement certificates are not to be included in record books for competitions, advancement information should be included as part of your project records and will be checked with your other records for county and state awards.

*You will notice that in each requirement of the various ranks, page references are given. These refer to pages in the manual on **Horses and Horsemanship** or **Horse Science** unless otherwise specified.*

When each rank is completed, you will receive an advancement certificate. 4-Hers are encouraged to make advancements at a pace that best suits each individual. Advancement through the ranks is a testament to your ongoing growth as a knowledgeable and experienced horseperson.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL RANKS

1. Attend club meetings and take an active part in these meetings and activities. Know the 4-H Pledge.
2. Complete at least one approved horse project each year.
3. Keep a 4-H horse project record or portfolio each year. Sign the record yourself and have it approved by your parents and leader.

Rank Advancement Overview

The Utah State 4-H Horsemanship Program can be divided into six categories to meet the needs and interests of a variety of horsemen.

The first category: Horsemanship, provides the basis for all of the others. After passing the Top Hand Rank, a 4-H member can then diversify to meet individual interests and needs.

Horsemanship

- Tenderfoot 1
- Tenderfoot 2
- Wrangler 1
- Wrangler 2
- Top Hand
- Foreman
- County Master Horseman
- State Master Horseman
- Judging

Western

- Western Show
- Western Games
- Trail

English

- Hunter Rider
- Hunter over Fences
- Dressage

Working Ranch Horse

- Working Ranch Horse Unit 1
- Working Ranch Horse Unit 2
- Working ranch Horse Unit 3

Roping

- Junior Roping Rank
- Senior Roping Rank

Young Horse

- Foal Handler
- Colt Trainer
- Two-Handed Performance

TENDERFOOT RANK

Requirements:

Meet the basic requirements for all ranks, be a minimum of 8 years of age and pass Tenderfoot tests for horsemanship knowledge and skill.

Tenderfoot Tests

This is the first step in the 4-H Horse program. Complete the following two units to meet the requirements for a Tenderfoot.

TENDERFOOT UNIT #1

(Horse Science or Non-Horse Phase)

Approved by Leader
Date Initials

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-------|-------|
| 1. | Locate and spell the following 16 points of the horse:
(Horses and Horsemanship manual, page 8) | _____ | _____ |
| | Poll Shoulder | | |
| | Withers Point of Hip | | |
| | Neck Knee | | |
| | Back Abdomen or belly | | |
| | Forehead Gaskin | | |
| | Throat latch Hock | | |
| | Hoof Rump or Croup | | |
| | Heartgirth (Girth) Point of Shoulder | | |
| 2. | Describe how a horse is measured (NO PAGE) | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | Name three gaits of a horse and identity the footfall of each.
(pages 17-19) | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | What is the difference between a bridle and halter?
(pages 27-34) | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | Name, locate and spell all parts of the bridle,
Western or English (page 27-28) | _____ | _____ |
| 6. | Name, locate and spell the major parts of the saddle,
Western or English (pages 31-33) | _____ | _____ |
| 7. | Describe differences in appearance and use between
Western and English saddle (pages 31-33) | _____ | _____ |
| 8. | Name five standard colors of horses. Be able to identify them. (pages 4 -7) | _____ | _____ |
| 9. | Identify five markings on the face and five markings on the legs.
(pages 4-7) | _____ | _____ |
| 10. | Identify these colors and markings in a group of horses | _____ | _____ |

TENDERFOOT UNIT #2
(Horsemanship or Horse Phase)

Requirements:

Meet all of the above requirements plus the following eight requirements:

	Approved by Leader	
	Date	Initials
1. Demonstrate the correct method of approaching a horse when entering a corral and a box stall. (pages 51-52)	_____	_____
2. Demonstrate the proper method of leading a horse from a stall and tying the horse in preparation to grooming. (pages 51-52)	_____	_____
3. Demonstrate the proper method of approaching a tied horse. (pages 51-52)	_____	_____
4. Demonstrate proper grooming of a horse, including hoof picking and moving around a tied horse using proper safety techniques (pages 35-39, 48, 52)	_____	_____
5. Write a 200 word paper on care and feeding your horse. (Horse Science pages 27 - 41 and other books)	_____	_____
6. Horsemanship test:		
a. Halter and tie the horse with proper knot	_____	_____
b. Groom the horse working safely	_____	_____
c. Saddle the horse and secure the cinch	_____	_____
d. Bridle the horse	_____	_____
e. Mount the horse	_____	_____
f. Cue your horse to walk and stop	_____	_____
g. Ride at a walk and trot	_____	_____
h. Dismount	_____	_____
h. Unbridle the horse	_____	_____
i. Halter and tie the horse safely	_____	_____
j. Unsaddle	_____	_____
7. Name six general safety rules all 4-H members should observe when working with or riding their horses (pages 51 – 54)	_____	_____
8. Exhibit the following components necessary for a showmanship class:		
Walk	_____	_____
Trot	_____	_____
Stop	_____	_____
Turn	_____	_____
Set-up	_____	_____

_____ has satisfactorily
 (Signature of Member) (age/year in 4-H)

passed all of the above tests and has now qualified in the TENDERFOOT RANK.

 Date
 Approved by:

 Examiner(s)

WRANGLER RANK

Requirements:

1. Meet the "Basic Requirements for All Ranks" and satisfactorily fulfill requirements for the Tenderfoot test.
2. Serve on at least one club committee or as a club officer.
3. Give a demonstration at a club meeting once a year.
4. Participate in one club, community, or county horse show.
5. Participate in one club, county or regional judging clinic.
6. Coach one member through the phases of Tenderfoot requirements. (If no member is available, the leader can substitute another requirement.)
7. Pass each Wrangler unit.

WRANGLER UNIT #1

(Non-Horse or Horse Science Phase)

	Approved by Leader	
	Date	Initials
1. Name, locate and spell 30 points of the horse (page 8)	_____	_____
2. Be able to locate and spell the following unsoundnesses and blemishes: Ring bone, curb, thoroughpin, splint, sidebone, hernia and include a description of each (page 12, Horse Science).	_____	_____
3. Show and discuss uses of a few different types of tack. Demonstrate proper care of tack (pages 27 - 34)	_____	_____
4. Name four leading breeds of horses. Describe characteristics and uses of each breed. (Appendix to Horses and Horsemanship)	_____	_____
5. Demonstrate how to examine a horse's foot. Locate and name the external parts of the hoof. (page 48)	_____	_____
6. Explain how to determine when a horse needs to be reshod or trimmed (pages 48 - 50)	_____	_____

WRANGLER UNIT #2
(Horsemanship or Horse Phase)

1. Demonstrate proper method of mounting a horse, ride at three gaits exhibiting proper horsemanship, either Western or Hunt seat. Ask the horse to back while mounted. Dismount and lead out of the arena. (Pages 20-26). _____
2. Demonstrate proper method of lunging a horse. (No pages) _____
3. Prepare your horse for showing at halter. Include proper grooming, conditioning and setting up. (pages 35-43) _____
4. Exhibit your horse at halter or showmanship in a regular show. (pages 40-43) _____
5. Give a demonstration to your club or other interested group on some interesting phase of horsemanship you have learned. _____
6. Name two people (other than a 4-H leader or your parent) that have helped you learn more about horses. Give a short explanation of how each has helped you.

1. Name: _____ has helped me with my horse by:

2. Name: _____ has helped me with my horse by:

_____ has satisfactorily
(Signature of Member) (age/ year in 4-H)

passed all of the above tests and has now qualified in the WRANGLER RANK

Date: _____

Approved by:

(Examiner(s))

TOP HAND RANK

You are now experienced enough to help decide the topics you would like to study to improve your horsemanship ability. Check the list of topics given under suggestions for rank of Top Hand and select the ones in which you feel you need improvement. Be honest with yourself. It is more important to gain more knowledge and improve your abilities than to complete Top Hand Rank. When you feel that you have mastered any one area, and your parents and leader agree, you are ready to move on.

First, carefully check your “Horses and Horsemanship” manual. If you find some topics that you feel you should study more or some horsemanship skills you should practice, you may also choose to include these in your Top Hand tests.

Requirements:

1. Pass requirements for Wrangler and meet the “Basic Requirements for All Ranks”
2. Participate in at least one horse show
3. Give demonstration to club
4. Participate in a judging clinic or event. If no judging clinic is available, substitute a requirement
5. Coach a club member through the Wrangler requirements. (If no member is available, leader can substitute another requirement.)
6. Pass Top Hand test for horsemanship knowledge and skills.

Top Hand Test

1-7 required; total of 10 required – Your job is to choose three additional topics

Check the topics you would like to work on from this list and then add others that you, your parents, and your leader agree upon.

When you can answer these questions, do the performance requirements, and practice good horsemanship at all times, you are qualified to work on any additional rank.

	Approved by Leader	
	Date	Initials
1. Demonstrate trimming and clipping a horse for showing (pages 38 and 39)	_____	_____
2. Demonstrate trimming mane properly (page 39)	_____	_____
3. Compare conformation of two horses, stating your reasons (pages 8 - 16)	_____	_____
4. Explain what we mean by soundness in a horse. Using proper format and terminology, (notes allowed) know structural deviations and what they may cause in movement and lameness (Horse Science, p. 12-13, Horses and Horsemanship, P. 12 - 13)	_____	_____
5. Demonstrate and explain the major safety rules and precautions in working with and riding horses. (pages 51 – 54)	_____	_____
6. Demonstrate how to tie a bowline knot. Discuss how and why it is used.	_____	_____
7. Do the following performance tests: a. Start lope from a jog, right lead and then left lead	_____	_____

- b. Start lope from a walk, right lead, and then left lead _____
- c. Perform a series of figure eight's at the lope, changing the leads so that your horse is always on an correct lead (using simple changes) _____
- d. Smooth downward transitions: _____
 - Walk to the halt
 - Jog to the walk
 - Jog to the halt
 - Lope to the jog
 - Lope to the walk
- e. Back your horse two lengths while mounted. _____

Choice Items

- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____
- 11. _____

_____ has satisfactorily
 (Signature of Club Member)
 passed all of the above tests and has now qualified in the TOP HAND RANK.

Date: _____

Approved by:

_____ Examiner(s)

FOREMAN RANK

This rank emphasizes the development of leadership ability. Club members should do all they can to assist their 4-H leaders in teaching younger members in the horse program. Advancement to the rank of Foreman will add to a member's knowledge and skill.

Requirements:

1. Pass the Top Hand or Hunter Rider requirements and meet the basic requirements for all ranks
2. Be a junior, teen or assistant leader.
3. Complete four or more of the leadership assignments and one or more of the research assignments. Leaders and members may substitute an assignment if needed.

Approved by Leader
Date Initials

Leadership Assignments (Choose 4)

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1. Enroll one or more new members for your club or help organize a new horse club. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Assist county leaders with conducting a horse show or help organize and conduct an educational tour, demonstration or judging event. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Mentor at least one member through the Top Hand requirements. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Demonstrate to your club how to teach a horse to understand basic cues and simple lead changes. | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Help organize a clinic by an outside professional trainer for younger members. | _____ | _____ |

Choice Item

- | | | |
|----------|-------|-------|
| 6. _____ | _____ | _____ |
|----------|-------|-------|

Research Assignment

Prepare a paper of at least 500 words on one of the following topics or give an oral report on the topic selected:

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| 1. How to teach horses basic aids. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Feeding and nutrition of the horse. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Light horse general management. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. The safety precautions that should be observed by horse people. | _____ | _____ |
| 5. The history and description of a breed of light horses. | _____ | _____ |
| 6. How to judge a halter or performance class using proper criteria and terminology. | _____ | _____ |

Choice Item

- | | | |
|----------|-------|-------|
| 7. _____ | _____ | _____ |
|----------|-------|-------|

_____ has satisfactorily passed

(Signature of Club Member)

all of the above tests and has now qualified in the FOREMAN RANK

Date: _____

Approved by:

_____ Examiner(s)

TRAIL RANK

Introducing a horse to new environments and allowing it to take these situations in stride makes a safer mount for any rider. The objective of this rank is to expose you and your horse to new obstacles either in the ring or on trail rides. This rank can help to build confidence in both horse and rider.

Prepare yourself, your tack, and your horse to achieve safety and success.

Approved by Leader

Requirements:

	Date	Initials
1. Complete the requirements for Top Hand Rank or Hunter Rider, and meet the "Basic Requirements for All Ranks".	_____	_____
2. Participate in a trail class at a 4-H Show, winning a red or blue ribbon or perform a similar quality performance at a club meeting.	_____	_____
3. Mandatory obstacles: see Utah State Horse 4-H Contest Rulebook	_____	_____
4. Write a 500 word essay on fitting and planning for a trail ride.	_____	_____
5. Plan an overnight trail ride. (Draw up a map and locate trails.)	_____	_____
6. Demonstrate the diamond hitch and one other hitch used to tie a pack on a pack horse or learn to pack hard side panniers.	_____	_____
7. Pack for an over night trail ride.	_____	_____
8. Participate in at least two half-day trail rides.	_____	_____
9. Participate in an overnight trail ride, caring for your own horse and equipment.	_____	_____
10. Participate in a group trail ride.(where available, AQHA, Back Country Horsemen, etc. can help to teach about trail etiquette)	_____	_____

_____ has satisfactorily passed
(Signature of Club Member)

all of the above tests and has now qualified in the TRAIL RIDER RANK.

Date: _____

Approved by:

_____ Examiner(s)

WESTERN GAMES RANK

Games demonstrate a rider's ability to train and show a horse at speed. These classes require the rider to develop the horse's flexibility, confidence and control in order to work the patterns in an efficient and safe manner.

Approved by Leader
Date Initials

Requirements:

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1. Complete the requirements for Top Hand Rank. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Name six games performed on horseback and describe the rules for each. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. View at least one video on training for a speed event. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Write a 500 word paper on safety and training for a speed event. (Interview and observe a professional trainer or exhibitor on his/her training methods to include in your paper). | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Participate in four different speed events in 4-H competition. | _____ | _____ |
| 6. Win a red or blue ribbon in at least two speed events. | _____ | _____ |
| 7. Develop a new game event and write the rules. | _____ | _____ |
| 8. Teach the game to your club or family. | _____ | _____ |

_____ has satisfactorily passed
(Signature of Club Member)
all of the above tests and has now qualified in WESTERN GAMES RANK.

(DATE)

Approved by:

Examiner(s)

WESTERN SHOW RANK

Judged or Show Events demonstrate a rider's ability to train and show a horse. These classes require the rider to develop the horse's flexibility, confidence and control in order to work the patterns in an efficient and safe manner.

Approved by Leader
Date Initials

Requirements:

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| 1. Complete the requirements for Top Hand Rank. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Name six judged events performed on horseback and describe the rules for each. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. View at least one video on training for a judged event. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Write a 500 word paper on safety and training for a judged event. (Interview and observe a professional trainer or exhibitor on his/her training methods to include in your paper). | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Participate in four different judged events in 4-H competition. | _____ | _____ |
| 6. Win a red or blue ribbon in at least two judged events. | _____ | _____ |
| 7. Develop a new pattern for a judged event and write the rules. | _____ | _____ |
| 8. Teach the pattern to your club or family. | _____ | _____ |

_____ has satisfactorily passed
(Signature of Club Member)
all of the above tests and has now qualified in WESTERN SHOW RANK.

(DATE)

Approved by:

Examiner(s)

FOAL HANDLER RANK

Club members who wish to raise a foal may complete this rank as their project requirement.

Requirements:

1. Pass the Top Hand or Hunter Rider requirements and meet the basic requirements for all ranks.
2. Raise, care for, and train a foal to breaking age.

Approved by Leader
Date Initials

Explain and demonstrate ten of the following with your foal:

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| 1. Haltering: halter your foal. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Teaching to lead: Lead your foal as directed. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Teaching to back: Back two lengths. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. How to pick up the front and rear feet. | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Work on longe line at walk, and trot, left and right. | _____ | _____ |
| 6. Teaching to yield to pressures; side step two steps left and right. | _____ | _____ |
| 7. Pivot about on the forehand 180 degrees, left and right pivot
foot kept within one foot of starting point. | _____ | _____ |
| 8. Sacking out. | _____ | _____ |
| 9. Taking proper care of feet. | _____ | _____ |
| 10. Grooming as for show. | _____ | _____ |
| 11. Posing or setting up as for show. | _____ | _____ |

Choice Items

- | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|
| 12. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 13. _____ | _____ | _____ |

_____ has satisfactorily passed
(Signature of Club Member)

all of the above tests and has now qualified in the FOAL HANDLER RANK.

Date: _____

Approved by:

Examiner(s)

TWO-HANDED PERFORMANCE RANK

After starting a young horse, most trainers want a chance to show their skills. The Two-Handed Project provides this opportunity.

In order to start on this rank, you must have earned the rank of Top Hand or Hunter Rider.

The 4-H member must declare a two-handed project horse and compete in the county or state Two-Handed Show.

Requirements:

1. Complete the requirements for Top Hand Rank or Hunter Rider and meet the "Basic Requirements for All Ranks.
2. Work with a trainer or someone who is knowledgeable about training young horses for performance events
3. Read three books/booklets and/or watch three videos on training a performance horse.
4. Write a paper (at least 500 words in length) analyzing the differences and similarities in training methods.
5. Care for and personally train a two-handed project horse for the season it is to be shown.
6. Successfully compete in all Utah State Horse 4-H Two-Handed classes in at least one Two-Handed Show following the rules and guidelines in the Utah State Horse 4-H Contest Rules book

The above requirements have been met.

Approved _____
Club Leader

Approved by Examiner
Date Initials

Performance Requirements

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1. Compete in a Showmanship class and earn a red or blue ribbon. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Compete in a Western Pleasure class and earn a red or blue ribbon. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Compete in a Western Equitation class and earn a red or blue ribbon. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Compete in a Trail Class and earn a red or blue ribbon. | _____ | _____ |

_____ has satisfactorily passed
(Signature of Club Member) Age

all of the above tests and has now qualified in TWO-HANDED PERFORMANCE CLASS RANK

Date: _____

Approved by:

Examiner(s)

STATE MASTER HORSEMAN RANK

This is the top rank in the 4-H horse Advancement Program. After you have received the County Master Horseman Rank and have been recommended by your 4-H club leader, you may complete requirements for the State Master Horseman Rank.

Your Extension Agent, 4-H Leader, or County Horse Council may pass you on the requirements. The Western riding test is to be performed before a qualified judge, leader, or committee. The Hunter Riding Test can be performed at the State English Show or before an AHSA approved judge.

Requirements:

1. Complete the requirements for County Master Horseman Rank and meet the basic requirements for all ranks.
2. Participate in at least five horse shows and win a blue ribbon in reining at a 4-H show or be judged as a blue ribbon reining performance while taking this test.
3. Serve as a club officer, junior or teen leader.
4. Write a 500 word essay on training a reining, hunter or dressage horse.
5. Care for, keep records on, and personally train a horse for at least nine months.
6. Ride with a trainer for a minimum of 10 hours. Maintain a log of daily experience.

The above requirements have been met. Approved _____
Extension Agent

Western Riding Test

Approved by Examiner

- | | Date | Initials |
|---|-------|----------|
| 1. Perform Senior Reining patterns (see 4-H rule book) | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Perform the Utah 4-H Western Riding Pattern (Senior Pattern) | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Perform a Western Equitation Pattern (see 4-H Rule book for suggestions) | _____ | _____ |

These three patterns should be completed at a blue ribbon level. If it receives less than that score, it must be re-run at a later date. All passing scores will be recorded and a repeat of them will not be necessary.

Hunter Riding Test

1. Ride USEF Pre novice Test 3 or 4. Receive a score of 55% or better. _____
2. Perform an equitation pattern including all three gaits, posting and sitting trot with and without stirrups, and two point position. _____

_____ has satisfactorily passed
(Signature of Club Member) Age _____
all of the above tests and has now qualified in the STATE MASTER HORSEMAN RANK

Date: _____

Approved by: _____

Examiner(s)

APPENDIX

CONFORMATION AND JUDGING OF HORSES

A working knowledge of conformation is necessary for selection and proper use of a horse.

The conformation criteria are explained first. It will help to learn them by relating the information to your own horse. Study structure in terms of this information.

Facts on formal judging are contained in the latter part of this section.

You will not be able to learn all of this information by just memorizing it. Put it to use as you work around your horse and others. If you apply these facts, the correct use of them will become habits.

The following information describes the halter horse with the parts of the body and positive aspects to look for and evaluate. You will find that most breed associations follow these guidelines quite closely in describing their ideal animal. Their breed characteristics are usually added to these basic descriptions. Learn to recognize the different breed characteristics since most judging contests will have the classes divided by breeds.

JUDGING CRITERIA FOR THE HALTER HORSE

General Appearance

1. Balance (equal in shoulder, barrel, and hindquarter length), length of neck, depth through the body
2. Structure (stands on a straight column of bone from side and front/rear)
3. Muscling (breed dependent: stock type want density and bulge of muscle, other breeds look for long, refined muscle)
4. Quality (bone clean, dense, fine, yet indicating substance. Tendons and joints sharply defined, hide and hair fine, general refinement, finish)
5. Height and condition

Head and Neck

6. Head (size and dimensions in proportion, clear-cut features, straight face line, wide angle in lower jaw)
7. Muzzle (fine, nostrils large, lips thin, trim, even)
8. Eyes (prominent orbit; large, full bright, clear; lid thin, even curvature)
9. Forehead (broad, full)
10. Ears (medium-size, pointed, set close, carried alert)
11. Neck (long, supple, well created, not carried too high (breed dependent), throat latch well cut out, head well set on)

Forequarters

12. Shoulders (very long, sloping, yet muscular)
13. Arms (short, muscular, carried well forward)
14. Forearm (long, broad, muscular)
15. Knees (straight, wide, deep, strongly supported)
16. Cannons (short, broad, flat, tendons sharply defined, set well back)
17. Fetlocks (wide, tendons well back, straight, well supported)
18. Pasterns (long, oblique – 45 degrees – smooth, strong)
19. Feet (large, round, uniform, straight, slope of wall parallel to slope of pastern, sole concave, bars strong, frog large, elastic, heels wide, full, one-third height of toe, horn dense, smooth, dark color)
20. Legs (direction viewed from in front, a perpendicular line dropped from the point of the shoulder should divide the leg and foot into two lateral halves; viewed from the side, a perpendicular line dropped from the tuberosity of the scapula should pass through the center of the elbow-joint and meet the ground at the center of the foot.)

Body

21. Withers (high, muscular, well finished at top, extending well into back)
22. Chest (medium-wide, deep)
23. Ribs (well sprung, long, close)
24. Back (short, straight, strong, broad)
25. Loin (short, broad, muscular, strongly coupled)
26. Flank (deep, full, long, low underline)

Hindquarters

27. Hips (broad, round, smooth)
28. Croup (long, sloped, round, smooth) know breed specifics
29. Tail (low set) breed specific for stock type.

30. Thighs (full, muscular)
31. Stifles (broad, full, muscular)
32. Gaskins (broad muscular inside and outside)
33. Hocks (straight, wide, point prominent, deep, clean cut, smooth, well supported)
34. Cannons (short, broad, flat, tendons sharply defined, set well back)
35. Fetlocks (wide, tendons well back, straight, well supported)
36. Pasterns (long, oblique – same angle as shoulder, smooth, strong)
37. Feet (large round –hind slightly less than in front – uniform, straight, slope of wall parallel to slope of plaster, sole concave, bars strong, frog large and elastic, heels wide, full, one-third heights of toe, horn dense, smooth and dark color)
38. Legs (direction viewed from the rear, a perpendicular line dropped from the point of the buttock should divide the leg and foot into lateral halves; viewed from the side, this same line should touch the point of the hock, tendons, and meet the ground some little distance back of the heel; a perpendicular line dropped from the hip joint should meet the ground near the center of the foot)

Way of Going

39. Walk (medium speed, flat footed, in line)
40. Jog (free, straight, smooth, driving off hocks, little knee action-breed dependent)

THE ART OF JUDGING

Judging horses is more than just a contest or game. It is a skill you acquire that allows you to evaluate a horse in relation to the work you expect it to do.

Judging halter horses consists of evaluating a horse on its type, balance, structure, muscling and way of going. Judging performance horses consists of evaluating a horse on its manners, consistency, and way of going. Evaluate the horse to find the horse that combines, to the highest degree, the aspects listed above.

Study and practice are required to become a good judge. You must know the parts of the horse and learn to use correct horse terms in your conversation. Study the judging criteria to learn more about the areas judged and the descriptive terms used to discuss the ideal parts.

Don't wait for a workshop or a contest to test your skill. Begin judging every horse you see – your own, your friends' horses, those you see at shows, and any you see by the road as you ride by in car. As you practice you will develop confidence in yourself to recognize types of horses, their conformation, and movement. There is no perfect horse. Each has its good points and faults. Experience will help you to balance the good and bad points.

Judging Procedure:

Each time you look at a horse, you will have thoughts about things you see that you like or do not like about the horse. You are putting your judging knowledge and skill to use each time this happens.

In a judging contest you will be asked to compare each horse against the others in a class and make a placement. In addition, on certain classes, you will be asked to explain why you selected your placement. This is called, "oral reasons."

FOR A JUDGING CONTEST

A definite judging method should be used to help you avoid overlooking any parts of the horse. Here is a common method to follow: Halter classes:

1. **Side View:** stand back – get the "Big Picture" of each horse. Evaluate the balance and side structure.
2. **Front/Rear View:** The horses will be moved to allow judges to evaluate these two views. Each horse must be viewed from directly in front or rear to determine structure and muscling.
3. **Close Inspection:** Always move quietly and steadily around horses. Close inspection allows you to view each horse at close range to look for the small things you might not see from a distance.

- 4 **Movement-** Each horse will be walked and trotted in such a manner as to allow you to see the horse move toward and away from you along with a side view. This allows you to evaluate the tracking of each horse.

The horses in a halter class will always be identified by numbers. If you become confused, ask your group leader to point out the number of each horse.

Performance judging is based upon the ability of the horse and rider to do the work required. Performance horses are judged on manners, consistency and way of going. For a pattern class, the pattern must be completed as written. The horse that completes the pattern correctly with the most finesse and style should place well. You must learn to recognize how a horse and rider look when they are performing properly. Horsemanship knowledge is the key.

The performance classes are judged from outside the ring. Make sure that you have a clear view of the entire ring without any obstacles in the way. Never look down or take your attention away from the horse(s) in the ring during the class. This could cause you to miss an important event that could affect the final placing.

Study and know the rules required for the performance classes. The rules will explain the class routine required, the appointments allowed, and what elements of horsemanship are considered important.

The horses and riders are identified in each class by numbers or in the order in which they perform. If you become confused, ask your group leader.

Your 4-H manuals contain the information needed on what to look for in horsemanship and the class rules for 4-H horse shows. Your Extension Agent and club leader will help on this.

Note Taking for Oral Reasons:

In both halter and performance judging, you should learn to picture each horse and rider in your mind by some identifying feature, i.e. the smallest horse, color or markings, the handlers shirt color or the only female or male handler, the rider with the (color) saddle pad or chaps. By doing this, and concentrating, you will be able to see each horse or rider in your mind as you give reasons.

Prepare a brief comparative set of notes to study before you give reasons. The notes and mental picture of each class will help organize your thinking. Include only the major points, good or bad, in your notes. The notes should be organized according to your class placement to facilitate development of reasons.

Oral Reasons:

The purpose in oral reasons is to defend your placing to an official who has also seen the class.

You will give the official a more favorable impression if your reasons are truthful, your attitude and manners are sincere and confident; and you use horse terms correctly.

Follow the format for oral reasons. Discussing good points of the top horse of each pair and grants for the second horse of each pair. Grants include aspects that are better in the second placed horse over the first placed horse. Being thorough and accurate will allow the reasons giver to be scored high even though the placing may differ from the official placing. Avoid antagonizing the official by talking loudly, standing too close, or mannerisms that imply that you are “one hot horse judge”. The official already knows how you placed the class, and is waiting for you to defend the placing.

Enter the room in a calm, business-like manner. Stand squarely on both feet in front of the official, (about 4 – 6 feet away) with a confident attitude. Place both hands behind your back. Look the official in the eye (or stare at the official's hat brim or forehead) and give an accurate, concise set of reasons. When you have finished speaking, wait politely for any questions and leave when the official indicates he/she is through.

It is appropriate for those participating in a judging contest to dress in good taste. Your clothing should be neat, clean, fitted and complimentary to you. Avoid loud colors and extreme styles. Western hats are not allowed during the actual judging of horses but can be worn during reasons.

Space does not permit including sample sets of reasons which may influence your choice of presentation. Avoid giving stereotyped or "canned" reasons. Use the following as a guideline, but keep your reasons natural and accurate.

1. Open with a statement of the class you are talking about and your placing. This can also include an opening statement of the class, i.e. "I placed this class of Quarter Horse Halter, 1, 2, 3, 4 with a close top pair and an obvious bottom horse."
2. Describe the more ideal aspects of your top horse over the second horse using comparative terms. Grant any points in which the second horse was better than the first.
3. Follow the above procedure for each pair of horses in the class. Good points first (even on your last place horse) and then grant. Remember to compare. A weak point may not be bad – it is just not as good as the same point on the horse you placed higher in the class.
4. Finalize your reasons by indicating weak points of the last place horse and concluding with a statement of the class name and your placement.

Remember that you must learn the parts of the horse and terminology. Practice is very important for proper judging and oral reasons. A video on "Giving Oral Reasons" is available as a helpful guide from the State 4-H Office. A judging manual with class criteria, note taking and oral reasons skills is available through the Extension Equine Specialist office. The American Quarter Horse Association publishes a free "Competitive Judging Manual".

When judging an open horse show the format for halter is typically:

The contestant will walk the horse toward you, trot past you in a straight line and turn left to line up head to tail. After viewing each horse in movement, the judge will walk around each horse to evaluate all views. With a large number of horses in a class the judge can pull out his/her top horses and line them up in order of placing, head to tail. This allows the judge to see how the horses fit in the placing with the ability to move horses in or out of the line up before turning in a final card.

NATIONAL 4-H

CLUB CREED



I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, to plan, and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to become kind, sympathetic and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the dignity it will give me to be helpful, useful, and skillful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, resist disease, and to work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my state, and my community, and in my responsibility for their development.

In all these things I believe, and I am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.

REMEMBER ALL FOUR H'S while you
Have Fun in 4-H. See how you can follow
The FOUR-H CLUB PLEDGE

Members should memorize and start each club meeting with the 4-H Pledge.

I Pledge:
My HEAD to clearer thinking
My HEART to great loyalty
My HANDS to larger service, and
My HEALTH to better living
For my club, my community, my country, and my world.

FOUR-H COLORS – GREEN AND WHITE

FOUR-H CLUB MOTTOR – TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER

FOUR-H CLUB EMBLEM – FOUR-LEAF CLOVER WITH “H” ON EACH LEAF