

4-H Horse Proficiency Program A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The **4-H Horse Proficiency program** helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your project, you will learn horse care basics, good management practices, safe handling and record keeping. You will also learn about the size and scope of the horse industry as it relates to your project.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- ◆ The *4-H Publications Catalog* lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- ◆ The *4-H Educational Resources Lending Library* at your county 4-H office includes other books, videos and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- ◆ Check to see if there are breeders or other organizations in your community that conducts educational activities and shows. Local breeders and equine clubs are excellent sources of help and information.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. Levels must be completed in consecutive order. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- **Level I – “Explorer”**, you begin to learn about many different aspects of horse care and handling.
- **Level II – “Producer”**, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about horses.
- **Level III – “Consumer”**, you become more experienced in horse care and handling.
- **Level IV – “Leader”**, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- **Level V – “Researcher”**, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of Horse care, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date and initial each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, place the form in your record book, turn your record book into your leader, and your leader will notify your 4-H office. You will receive your proficiency award at the Annual 4-H Achievement Program.

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS

Horse

Level I – Explorer

Initial & date as Completed

- _____ 1. Identify and describe three breeds and two species for your project.
- _____ 2. Identify the parts of a horse from a diagram or live animal.
- _____ 3. Demonstrate how to approach and lead a horse correctly and safely.
- _____ 4. Describe the basic housing and equipment that a beginner needs for the health, care, and safety of your animal.
- _____ 5. Explain the nutritional requirements of your horse at each development stage, (how, when, what, how much to feed).
- _____ 6. Explain how to tell when your horse is ill and when to call for assistance.
- _____ 7. Explain how hand-feeding treats to horses can get your fingers nipped.
- _____ 8. Explain why and how to permanently tattoo, mark or tag your horse for identification.
- _____ 9. Submit management records for a minimum of 90 days that indicate how often you provide fresh water, clean feed, clean housing, and general care to your animal.
- _____ 10. Demonstrate basic grooming techniques and equipment necessary for your animal.
- _____ 11. Define fifteen important, basic terms used in your project area.
- _____ 12. Find out the regulations related to raising/keeping a horse where you live.
- _____ 13. Describe three safety issues related to your horse project.
- _____ 14. Share one aspect of your project with other project members.
- _____ 15. Explain proper hoof care and demonstrate safely picking up and cleaning the feet.

Member's Name & Signature _____ Date Completed: _____

Leader's Name & Signature: _____ Date Completed: _____

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS

HORSE

Level II– Producer

Initial & date as Completed

- _____ 1. Identify and describe six breeds and two species for your project.
- _____ 2. Describe which breeds of horses are used for different purposes (example: packing, jumping, racing, cutting, working, etc.).
- _____ 3. Describe the desirable characteristics in the conformation of your horse.
- _____ 4. Identify the parts of the hoof, and explain proper hoof care.
- _____ 5. Describe the stages and length of gestation for horses.
- _____ 6 Explain bio-security or demonstrate how to sanitize your equipment.
- _____ 7 Describe or demonstrate what you can do to protect your horse during hot and cold weather.
- _____ 8. Describe control measures for five equine diseases or problem conditions.
- _____ 9. Demonstrate competency in showmanship for your animal.
- _____ 10. Identify the parts of tack (saddle, bridle, etc.).
- _____ 11. Keep an account of cash expenses for equipment and materials and at the end of your year compare your cost to the value of your project.
- _____ 12. Display your horse outside of your project group.
- _____ 13 Help someone else by sharing your knowledge or by giving away a product from your project to demonstrate positive citizenship.
- _____ 14. Take a horse's pulse and respiration rate.
- _____ 15. Evaluate a horse's conformation. (pointing out desirable and undesirable points and any visible blemishes and unsoundness)

Member's Name & Signature _____ Date Completed: _____

Leader's Name & Signature: _____ Date Completed: _____

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HORSE

Level III – Consumer

Initial & date as Completed:

- _____ 1. Demonstrate how to complete one of the management records required in your species or breed operation (example: pedigree, registration, production record, etc.).
- _____ 2. Contact a local, state, or national association related to your horse breed and report to your group what the association has to offer to its members and other interested individuals.
- _____ 3. Report on the history of your breed or species to your project group or club.
- _____ 4. Make a chart that explains how good selection can improve your stock. Explain in-breeding, line-breeding, out-breeding, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- _____ 5. Invite a guest speaker to one of your meetings and introduce them to the group.
- _____ 6. Describe the digestive system anatomy and physiology for your horse species and how it differs from other species.
- _____ 7. Explain the different types of feeds/diets and their nutritional components (fats, carbohydrates, protein, minerals, vitamins, water) and nutritional values.
- _____ 8. Explain three diseases or health conditions and their treatment and/or preventions not covered in Level II.
- _____ 9. Give a talk on a secondary aspect or by-product of your project industry.
- _____ 10. Keep a personal reference library of literature that will be helpful in your project.
- _____ 11. Demonstrate at least three methods of administering medications.
- _____ 12. State the normal vital signs (temperature, respiration, heart rate, etc.) for your horse species.
- _____ 13. Describe five ways to save money and be economical in raising your animal.
- _____ 14. Design an advertisement or a marketing strategy for your horse or a horse by-product.
- _____ 15. Alone or with your group, plan and complete a community service activity related to your project.

Member's Name & Signature _____ Date Completed: _____

Leader's Name & Signature: _____ Date Completed: _____

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS

HORSE

Level IV – Leader

Initial & date as Completed:

- _____ 1. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
- _____ 2. Assist younger members in designing and constructing needed equipment.
- _____ 3. Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings.
- _____ 4. Develop and put on a demonstration or judging event or train a junior team for a judging activity.
- _____ 5. Speak on a project-based subject before an organization other than your 4-H group.
- _____ 6. Assist at a show as a clerk, secretary, recorder, assistant to the judge, ring master or with set-up, registration, etc.
- _____ 7. Teach younger members about learning a specific topic in the project.
- _____ 8. Develop your own special project related activity. Chart your own progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on your accomplishments to your club.

Member's Name & Signature _____ Date Completed: _____

Leader's Name & Signature: _____ Date Completed: _____

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HORSE

Level V – Researcher

Initial & date as Completed:

- _____ 1. Report on the results of a demonstration comparing measurable differences in management procedure. (experiment)
- _____ 2. Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on one of the following topics:
- Management of animal.
 - Feeds, feeding, and nutrition.
 - Diseases, prevention and control, and general sanitation.
 - Markets and methods of marketing.
 - Reproduction, breeding, and genetics.
 - By-product preparation for market, how marketed, and used.
 - Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your horse project.
 - Other
- _____ 3. Prepare a speech or illustrated talk to orally summarize your findings and present at a club, project meeting or other educational event.

Member's Name & Signature _____ Date Completed: _____

Leader's Name & Signature: _____ Date Completed: _____

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS

Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

has completed the _____ Proficiency

in _____ County.

Explorer

Producer

Consumer

Leader

Researcher

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

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